

World Food Programme Emergency Report 2005  
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**(A) Highlights**

- (B) Middle East, Central Asia and Eastern Europe:** (1) Afghanistan (2) Georgia (3) Iraq (4) Kyrgyzstan (5) Libyan Arab Jamahiriya (6) Uzbekistan
- (C) East & Central Africa:** (1) Burundi (2) Congo (3) Congo, DR (4) Djibouti (5) Eritrea (6) Ethiopia (7) Kenya (8) Rwanda (9) Somalia (10) Sudan (11) Tanzania (12) Uganda
- (D) West Africa:** (1) Regional (2) Burkina Faso (3) Chad (4) Cote d'Ivoire (5) Ghana (6) Guinea (7) Liberia (8) Sierra Leone
- (E) Southern Africa:** (1) Regional (2) Angola (3) Lesotho (4) Malawi (5) Swaziland (6) Zambia (7) Zimbabwe
- (F) Asia:** (1) Bangladesh (2) Indonesia (3) Korea (DPR) (4) Maldives (5) Sri Lanka
- (G) Latin America and Caribbean:** (1) Bolivia (2) Cuba (3) Ecuador (4) El Salvador (5) Guatemala (6) Honduras (7) Nicaragua

**(A) Highlights**

- (a) WFP and UNDPSS recovered the 3 contracted trucks and 2 drivers who were abducted in Kafod last week en route to El Fasher in North Darfur.
- (b) WFP will continue assistance to an estimated 5,000 people in isolated villages in Georgia who already received 15 days rations after having become affected by flooding in April.
- (c) In view of the very low cereal pipeline, most food rations in Burundi had to be reduced, some by half.
- (d) Heavy rainfall in Ethiopia has positive effects on drought-affected areas in Somali region; it hampers, however, current food aid deliveries in that region.
- (e) WFP continues to take prudent preparedness actions and is closely monitoring the current unrest in Uzbekistan.

- (B) Middle East, Central Asia and Eastern Europe:** (1) Afghanistan (2) Georgia (3) Iraq (4) Kyrgyzstan (5) Libyan Arab Jamahiriya (6) Uzbekistan

**(1) Afghanistan**

- (a) The security situation remained stable although major demonstrations are expected this weekend. Insurgent activities or factional fighting were reported in the southern and southeastern regions. United Nations missions are suspended in the areas affected by security incidents and external missions to Afghanistan are restricted to essential ones.
- (b) WFP continues implementing its ongoing Protracted Relief and Recovery Operation (PRRO) in areas that remained unaffected.

**(2) Georgia**

- (a) Subsequent to the flood events of April; WFP; IFRC, CHF, and ADRA are providing food assistance. To assess the current situation and to ensure effective coordination of

food aid, WFP will send a mission to the regions of west Georgia. The mission will assess the food needs and elaborate recommendations for the future intervention.

- (b) According to preliminary plans, WFP will continue assistance to an estimated 5,000 people in isolated villages who have already received 15 days ration airlifted by WFP. They will be provided with the same food ration consisting of wheat flour, vegetable oil and sugar for an additional 30-45 days.
- (c) The next phase of assistance will include Food-For-Work activities, aimed at the rehabilitation of damaged agricultural assets (arable and pasture land) and other infrastructure (land protecting gabions, roads, potable water systems). Currently, the extent of the damage is being evaluated.

### **(3) Iraq**

- (a) The UN Assistance Mission for Iraq (UNAMI) and OCHA, are directing from Baghdad the work of relief agencies delivering assistance and assessing needs for some 2,000 families who had fled the city of Al Qaim, in western Iraq near the Syrian border, following clashes last week. Nearly 6,000 individuals are now homeless in areas surrounding the town, according to the NGO Italian Consortium of Solidarity (ICS). The Iraqi Red Crescent Society also began trucking in aid to Al-Qaim from 13 May. Food and non-food items have been distributed to roughly 200 families in Rawa, 250 families in Ana and 500 families in Akachat.

### **(4) Kyrghizstan**

- (a) The UN interagency needs assessment mission, sent as a result of the social unrest in Kyrghizstan in March, is currently finalizing its' report for release during the coming week. Preliminary results from the mission suggest that there is no current acute food insecurity crisis, but that chronic poverty and food insecurity is a concern. Greater in-depth surveys and studies are needed to better understand the nature and causes of the chronic underdevelopment, and how they can best be addressed.
- (b) As a result of the recent social unrest in eastern Uzbekistan, the approximately 500 Uzbekistan citizens currently located and seeking asylum in the Kyrghizstan district of Suzac, continue to receive assistance from UNHCR. UNHCR has reported that none of the asylum seekers interviewed indicated any desire whatsoever to go back to Uzbekistan, describing the situation in the region as tense. UNHCR has called upon the Kyrghiz authorities to continue abiding by its international legal obligation and admit asylum seekers originating from Uzbekistan and provide them with protection.

### **(5) Libyan Arab Jamahiriya**

- (a) WFP continues to supply food aid to Sudanese refugees in Chad and the war affected populations in Darfur via the Libya corridor.
- (b) The corridor provides a flexible surface transport and air bridge capability. Commodities are received at the port of Benghazi and transported on sealed roads 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 alleviate the congestion on other transport routes should they become blocked.
- (c) Since the completion of the corridors' first bulk wheat vessel on 16 April, WFP has dispatched some 2,395 tons of bagged wheat by surface means to Chad. The airlift

operation began on 7 May by the 25th had dispatched 1,365 tons to Darfur.

- (d) Current resourcing levels for this Special Operation 10417.0 stand at 5 percent.

## **(6) Uzbekistan**

- (a) Uzbek troops recently reclaimed control of the Uzbek/Kyrgyz border town of Kara-Su (on the Uzbek side of the border), which previously had been claimed by rebel elements. A rebel leader was arrested and detained, which in turn led to a street protest with hundreds of residents participating.
- (b) In the Uzbek capital Tashkent, two dozen opposition activists picketed the offices of the Organisation for Security and Cooperation in Europe, urging it to take a tougher line with the Karimov regime. Uzbek authorities recently arrested a prominent human rights activist in Tashkent, who has strongly criticized the violence in the eastern city of Andijan, according to a Human Rights Watch report. Uzbek authorities are holding dozens of people allegedly linked to the clashes in the eastern city of Andijan that are feared to have killed hundreds of civilians.
- (c) While there have been no signs of a rapid escalation of instability in recent days; WFP continues to take prudent preparedness actions and is closely monitoring the situation. Efforts have begun to identify staff from neighbouring countries and within the region, who could be called upon for rapid assessment activities should the need arise. Preparedness administrative procedures to facilitate any potential future staff travel have also begun. Information on UN agency and NGO presence within neighbouring Kyrgyzstan, and associated contact information has been compiled.

**(C) East & Central Africa:** (1) Burundi (2) Congo (3) Congo, DR (4) Djibouti (5) Eritrea (6) Ethiopia (7) Kenya (8) Rwanda (9) Somalia (10) Sudan (11) Tanzania (12) Uganda

## **(1) Burundi**

- (a) The agreement signed by the Burundian President and the leader of the Front National de Liberation (FNL) to stop hostilities with immediate effect, was violated last week by the national army and this week by FNL. Talks between the two sides continue. Meanwhile, criminality, and especially armed banditry, remains a permanent concern throughout the country.
- (b) All political parties started their campaigns for the forthcoming communal elections. Some incidents have been reported. WFP adopted extra measures of precaution for potential security problems and attempts to manipulate food aid. Asylum seekers from Rwanda continue to arrive in Burundi in small groups, while some others have returned to Rwanda. Currently there are between 7,500 and 8,500 asylum seekers in the country. WFP continues to monitor the situation through regular field visits and permanent contacts with UNHCR.
- (c) The general food security situation in the northern and eastern provinces remains precarious due to poor crops - due to hail in several areas and insufficient rains in others. In Ngozi, Kayanza and Kirundo provinces, the burden of Rwandan asylum seekers is affecting the food security of some host families. Moreover, the prices of food commodities remain high and admissions to feeding centres are increasing in some areas. WFP continues to monitor the situation and provide assistance as necessary. Furthermore, a seasonal Crop and Food Supply Assessment mission will start next week. Its results will assist WFP in adjusting the beneficiary numbers and estimates of food aid requirements for the last six months of the year.
- (d) Last week, WFP distributed over 1,495 tons of food aid to 180,535 beneficiaries in various provinces.

- (e) In view of the very low cereals' pipeline, most food rations for this week have been cut, some by half. Targeted distributions in Kayanza were delayed until the pipeline improves. More serious shortfalls for cereals are anticipated in June and for other commodities in August. The pipeline is practically empty from September onwards.

## **(2) Congo**

- (a) As at 24 May, one more person has been found seriously sick from "Fievre hémorragique Ebola". The Ministry of Health and an emergency team, comprising of WHO and NGO partners, are handling the situation in Etoumbi and Mbomo, in the north west of the Republic of Congo, where the spread of the disease is now under control.
- (b) However, the situation is tense as villagers are demonstrating against the emergency team and local authorities, because they do not believe that the disease could be "Ebola". They think that Ebola is an invention of the local administrative authorities and doctor in place. Pupils are afraid of missing to take their school exams, as the locality is placed under quarantine.
- (c) According to WHO, additional assistance in form of food and medicines is needed to calm down the situation in Etoumbi. WFP is waiting for a request from the government, as assistance is envisaged to all villagers instead of only affected persons. A serious engagement by the government and local authorities is expected in terms of sensitisation and information of the villagers.

## **(3) Congo, DR**

- (a) According to the media, at least 18 civilians were killed, 11 severely wounded and 50 kidnapped in an attack on 23 May, in Nindja (80km from Bukavu) in South Kivu, which was reportedly perpetrated by a group of Forces Démocratiques de Libération du Rwanda (FDLR) troops, May-May and other militiamen. The incident seemed to be a reprisal by militiamen, refusing to hand over their weapons. Villagers were fleeing towards Kaniola in Walungu territories. The United Nations Mission in the Democratic Republic of Congo (MONUC) has sent a mission for further investigations.
- (b) Last week, unidentified gunmen reportedly killed eight villagers in Di area, close to Gbi in Ituri district. This security incident is likely to slow down the reinstallation of IDPs encamped in Kakwa, as the attack took place near Lake Albert, which is on the IDPs' route returning home.
- (c) Several cases of banditry involving gunmen in uniform were recorded last week in many areas of Goma. Moreover, clashes between FARDC troops and May-May in Kahamba and Vurongo, southwest of Butembo in North Kivu, forced people to move to safer areas.
- (d) The same situation prevailed on the Rutshuru-Ishasa axis, where at least 10,000 IDPs in dire need of humanitarian assistance were gathering. According to local NGOs active in the area, some villages were entirely abandoned by its residents who were fleeing attacks by May-May troops.
- (e) Following the growing caseload of malnourished children in the region, the supplementary feeding centre in Lga Barriere, near Bunia, resumed its activities. According to the implementing partner Cooperazione Internazionale (COOPI), 420 additional children were received this week, raising the number of WFP beneficiaries to 2,600 malnourished children.
- (f) In Goma, food distribution focused on 27,500 displaced persons from Ituri district, who are currently encamped in Beni. They received a total of almost 150 tons to cover their needs for 15 days. Some 400 Rwandan refugees, settled in the UNHCR border transit centres, also received WFP food allocations before their repatriation to Rwanda.

**(4) Djibouti**

- (a) The cumulative impact of continuous droughts has led to a food crisis in five livelihood zones in Djibouti. A total of 5,000 tons of food aid is required to meet the critical food needs of around 47,000 people for a period of six months starting in June. Of these, around 9,500 are undernourished children. Urgent medical care is needed for around 5,000 people.
- (b) High livestock deaths have been reported and opportunistic diseases are further weakening the remaining herds and flocks. Around 50,000 head require veterinary care and fodder support for three months. Recent rainfall will temporarily improve pasture and water availability, but full recovery will take some time. The ongoing food aid effort by the government and WFP is designed to cover needs only through May. Current pledges are far below the estimated requirements for the period starting in June.
- (c) In the presence of the Director of the International Organizations of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Secretary-general of the Ministry of Interior, Office National d'Assistance pour les Refugies et Sinistres (ONARS) Executive Secretary and all Heads of UN agencies in Djibouti, WFP organized on 21 May the official ceremony for the reception of 33 tons of high energy biscuits (HEB) airlifted by WFP Partner TNT from Brindisi, Italy, to Djibouti at no cost to WFP. This batch of 33 tons of HEB is the first of a total requirement of 100 tons destined to 9,500 under-five malnourished children affected by three years of poor rainfall. The HEB will be distributed during the first week of June to all health centres admitting under-five children suffering from acute malnutrition in the districts of Arta, Ali Sabieh, Dikhil, Tadjoura and Obock.

**(5) Eritrea**

- (a) The Eritrean Relief and Refugee Commission (ERREC) said that it planned to stretch available food aid as long as possible, though the lean season has just started. "Until June we will live purely on carryover stocks from last year," the Deputy Commissioner of ERREC told IRIN in an interview. "As a result, we can only reach 1.2 million out of the 2.3 million needy so far". Even these 60 percent will receive a reduced ration, due to pipeline bottlenecks. These rations will be further diluted at the community level through the widespread cultural sharing practice.
- (b) According to UNICEF, 40 percent of all households in Eritrea are headed by women, and these households are extremely affected by the combined effects of the 'no peace, no war' and drought situation as many men are conscripted for national service and animals have been lost due to drought, or have been sold to feed those who are left behind in the villages. According to the UNICEF representative in Eritrea, "there is almost no other country where maternal health is as bad; malnutrition among pregnant and nursing mothers stands above 40 percent".
- (c) WFP in Barentu, in the western part of the country, reports increasing admissions of malnourished children to the therapeutic feeding ward, due to lack of appropriate food, clean water and poor sanitation. Though there is food in the market, prices have increased considerably, and many people can no longer afford to purchase sufficient food.
- (d) The northeastern region of the country reports prevailing drought and hardly any agricultural activities. Most people rely on food aid for their survival.
- (e) WFP commitment coverage for EMOP 10261.01 increased through a contribution of approximately USD 954,000 to now approximately USD 54.4 million, or a coverage of 72 percent of the total cost to WFP. Commitment coverage for the PRRO 10192.0 has remained unchanged with USD 42.8 million, representing 83 percent of operation requirements.

## **(6) Ethiopia**

- (a) Further rain and flooding in Somali Region is making access to flood-affected areas along the Wabe Shebelle river very difficult. Rain throughout the region has held up trucks making food aid deliveries. This follows the relaxation of a federal decision, in place over recent months, that military escorts should accompany trucks contracted by the Disaster Prevention and Preparedness Commission (DPPC) to deliver food aid from Dire Dawa warehouses to the five south-eastern zones of Somali Region. The military escorts were intended to ensure safe delivery of the food to the intended beneficiaries, after a crack-down on misuse of food aid in the region in late 2004. However the problems in arranging the military escorts had delayed the dispatch of February allocations for several months. It has been confirmed that no escorts are required for two of the five zones, while a decision is waited on escorts to other zones.
- (b) Confirmation has been received that food aid from Dire Dawa has recently reached Denan, in Gode zone, and some locations in the eastern zone of Degehabour, but the poor road conditions are delaying arrivals in many other areas. In preparation for the time when access problems ease, arrangements are being made by WFP to provide funds through DPPC to transport 870 tons of maize currently in stock in Gode (a local purchase by the region from irrigation projects in Gode zone) to flood victims in the area, who so far are receiving only limited amounts of badly needed food and non-food assistance. In all flooded areas, health and sanitation conditions continue to be a major concern.
- (c) A joint UN/DPPC assessment team arrived in Gode on 25 May to begin an assessment of flood-affected areas. The team will also be visiting Jijiga, to review reports of flood damage in the east of the region. Poor accessibility and security problems are restricting the movement of the team. Recent flooding was also reported in Denan, away from the Wabe Shebelle river in Gode zone. Heavy rains and flooding have caused damage in parts of Fik zone. Reports have been received from western parts of Somali Region that the Genale and Dawa rivers have also overflowed their banks, causing serious problems in the Dolo Odo/Dolo Bay area, and interrupting communications within large parts of Afder and Liben.
- (d) The more positive side of the very heavy rains in Somali Region since mid-April is that as a result of what is being described by some local observers as the best gu season rains in 40 years, pasture, browse and water are plentiful. Dams and cisterns (birkads) in the eastern zones have filled. Livestock condition has improved significantly and there are good supplies of camel and cow milk, an essential part of the diet of the pastoralists. When trade resumes as road conditions improve, the general economy of the region, including livestock marketing, is expected to revive, which will have a positive impact on the livelihoods of pastoralists. There may be some exceptions to the generally excellent rains, but until access improves, no over-all assessment of the impact of the rains is possible. Paradoxically, many of the areas now receiving a surfeit of rain were very recently considered drought-affected areas.
- (e) Food aid needs for Somali Region are part of the emergency food requirements for some 3.8 million people throughout the country in May, which total 72,000 tons. The current national relief food requirements are based on the "Flash Update for the 2005 Humanitarian Appeal for Ethiopia" issued in early May. The relief food requirements for May-December are almost covered by confirmed contributions. However, the Appeal requirements are subject to an update in July following the mid-year assessments of the belg and gu rainfall seasons. These assessments are expected to increase the relief food requirements further for the July-December period.

## **(7) Kenya**

- (a) Heavy rainfall and flooding in Kenya caused the displacement of a few thousand people this week. The government of Kenya has been able to provide food assistance to those people.
- (b) While the Kenyan 'long rains' (March - June) have been generally well distributed and were normal in the main maize producing areas of western Kenya, rainfall in the eastern marginal agricultural and northern pastoral districts has generally been poor. Crop yields are expected to be much below normal in the marginal agricultural areas of Makueni, due to a very late onset of the rains and poor rainfall distribution. Pastoral areas show a mixed pattern, but are benefiting from recent heavy, well-distributed rainfall in May. If rainfall continues into June, pasture, browse and water availability will increase and improve food security conditions greatly.
- (c) Agriculture experts have commented that while these late rains are benefiting pastoral populations, they will do little to help marginal agriculturalists, as much of their crop has already been lost. Long-rains assessments set to begin in late June-early July should update the food security status of households across the country's livelihoods, and hence the level of WFP relief food assistance after August 2005.
- (d) Due to the ongoing heavy rains in Kenya, part of the Kapenguria-Lokichoggio road has collapsed, and heavy trucks cannot pass through. The road serves WFP's south Sudan operation, WFP Kenya's refugee operation in Kakuma, as well as school feeding activities in Turkana District. WFP-contracted engineers are on site and are constructing a diversion. There are no cereals stocks in the Kakuma refugee camps for the next general food distribution scheduled for next week, as the stocks are in Mombasa. WFP's refugee operation has borrowed the school feeding programme's maize stocks, that are available in Kitale (few kilometres from Kapenguria) and will load them into 15-ton trucks, which will use an alternative route.
- (e) Following recent aflatoxin contamination of locally grown maize in Makueni, Kitui and Machakos Districts of Kenya, WFP is taking precautionary measures. Aflatoxin is a naturally occurring toxic chemical by-product from the growth of fungus on maize and other crops, hence being associated with mould. Given the current heavy rains, WFP together with the Government health inspectors checked the condition of maize in all WFP supported primary schools in the affected districts and in the Nairobi slums, following reports that mould was detected in one school in Makueni district and in another in Nairobi. Test results, now back from all sampled schools, confirm that stocks are free from aflatoxin.

## **(8) Rwanda**

- (a) The flow of refugees from DRC and Burundi continued last week, with 115 new arrivals (57 Burundian and 58 Congolese) in Nyamure and in Nkamira transit camps. However, for the first time in months the trend in numbers slightly decreased. Of the 53,190 refugees in Rwanda, some 46,285 are Congolese and 6,905 Burundians. The transfer of refugees to Ngarama camp continued with about 1,075 refugees that were relocated from Nyagatare transit camp in Cyangugu. A 30-day ration was provided to 2,200 refugees.
- (b) During the past week, 250 refugees spontaneously return to DRC from Nyagatare transit centre, while some 105 Burundians were repatriated from Gikonko camp.
- (c) At Nyagatare and Nkamira transit camps, 53 and 87 returnees respectively arrived from DRC. They received a one-month returnee package and departed for their places of origin.
- (d) In view of a pipeline break, the WFP provided returnee repatriation food package has been reduced from a three-month to a one-month ration. This will be reviewed as soon as the food availability improves.

## **(9) Somalia**

- (a) The Prime Minister of the Transitional Federal Government has reiterated his government's commitment to relocate to Baidoa and Jowhar in Bay and Middle Shabelle regions on 28 May, despite the increasing threats and tensions created by the refusal of one of the wings of the Rahanweyn Resistance Army that controls the town.
- (b) UNICEF has relocated all its international staff and some national staff, operating in the autonomous region of Puntland in the Northeast of Somalia, because of security concerns which have been triggered by a misunderstanding with contractors and the regional administration on vehicle rental charges. Depending on the outcome of deliberations with the authorities, all other UN agencies may follow suit.
- (c) A good 'Gu' season performance is expected to support the recovery process that is gradually taking place in most parts of Somalia. Heavy localized rainfalls have replenished the vegetation cover of most parts of the autonomous region of Puntland, but also damaged bridges and various points along the main Bossaso–Garowe highway.
- (d) Heavy 'Gu' rains reported in the Ethiopian highlands and the eastern region of Ethiopia bordering Somalia have resulted in mini-floods in the down stream rivers of Shabelle and Juba where parts of a number of towns such as Beletwein and Jalalaqsi in Hiran region, Central Somalia, have been flooded. WFP Somalia has put in place contingency relief food, ready for dispatch.
- (e) WFP Somalia continues to support the tsunami-affected communities along the northeast coastline. So far, WFP Somalia has distributed a total of some 1,635 tons to 30,000 beneficiaries in the tsunami-affected communities since January 2005. The heavily tsunami-affected road linking Hafun peninsula to Foar on mainland Somalia has been assessed by WFP in cooperation with ILO and the local authorities for rehabilitation, using Food-For-Work.

## **(10) Sudan**

- (a) DARFUR:
- (b) The overall security situation in all three Darfur states remains fragile, as WFP continues to receive reports of banditry and increased attacks by members of the Justice and Equality Movement (JEM) in South Darfur and fighting between Sudan Liberation Army (SLA) and the militia in North and West Darfur.
- (c) In South Darfur, the Government of Sudan (GoS) closed Kalma camp to UN/NGO movement, after fighting broke out between IDPs and the police, reportedly killing 3 people. The Humanitarian Aid Commission (HAC) compound as well as vehicles belonging to HAC and a local NGO were burnt down. On 23 May, movement restrictions were lifted in Kalma camp, although the situation inside the camp remains tense.
- (d) On 21 May, WFP and the UN Department of Safety and Security (UNDSS) proceeded to Safarya, where three WFP-contracted vehicles and two drivers, who had been detained by the SLA since 15 May, were finally recovered and brought back to El Fasher. WFP and UNDSS conducted the third joint security assessment mission of the Nyala/Kass road, which remains NO GO to UN movement. Findings will be released in the coming days.
- (e) Attacks on WFP contracted trucks transporting food along the Ed Daein/Nyala road continue, disrupting the timely arrival of food into Darfur and distribution in North and South Darfur.
- (f) During the past week, 153 Dinka IDPs returned to their places of origin in northern Bahr

El Ghazal, moving via Khor Omer from Khartoum, Nyala and El Obeid. It should be noted that an increasing number of Dinka IDPs are moving from areas of South Darfur towards Ed Daein as a result of continued insecurity and rising levels of vulnerability. Despite this population's expected return to their place of origin, the deteriorating food security situation in northern Bahr El Ghazal is hindering their return. There are also indications that people from Bahr El Ghazal are moving north towards Ed Daein because of increasing food insecurity in the South. It is therefore anticipated that the number of Dinka IDPs in Ed Daein may rise through the rainy season.

- (g) Dispatches from the three Darfur state capitals to Cooperating Partners (CP) between 1 and 22 May total about 29,050 tons to some 1.53 million beneficiaries (estimate based on dispatch report). During the same period, WFP dispatched a total of over 25,215 tons by road from logistical hubs in El Obeid, Khartoum and Kosti to the Darfur states. Airlifts and airdrops into Darfur during that period amount to some 4,785 tons of food, including about 1,140 tons of food being airlifted from Al Khufra, Libya.
- (h) Results of various assessment missions were released during the past week. WFP, UNSS, OCHA, UN Mission in Sudan (UNMIS) and World Vision (WV) completed a joint assessment in Khor Abeche, covering food, health, water, sanitation, shelter, education, market and security sectors. Following the results of the assessment, WFP dispatched to CP World Vision some 90 tons of food to serve 4,500 IDPs.
- (i) In addition, the final report of an assessment mission to Um Keddada, North Darfur in April has been released, identifying 55,000 drought-affected people in Um Keddada and between 45,000 to 50,000 people in western parts of Taweisha and Al Lait, potentially requiring food assistance. While ICRC is assisting some of the affected population, WFP currently lacks implementing partners to cover the area as needed. It has been proposed that a WFP mobile distribution team will cover the area.
- (j) Furthermore, preliminary findings of a joint WFP/FAO/OCHA/UNICEF assessment mission in Kebkabiyah, North Darfur, indicate that between 45,000 and 55,000 people required food assistance for 4 months. A renewed headcount of rural Kebkabiyah and eastern El Seraif areas has also been recommended. WFP, UNICEF and FAO also plan to conduct a joint rapid nutritional assessment in the rural areas around Meilit town following a nutritional concern raised by the CP. Preliminary findings of a WFP, OCHA, UNHCR and CPs conducted assessment in Um Rokum village near Zalingie, indicate that 5,800 individuals require humanitarian assistance.
- (k) Finally, WFP undertook rapid nutrition assessments in Godsigna and Masitula areas, West Darfur, where there are some 4,500 returnees from Chad. Preliminary results of the Mid Upper Arm Circumference (MUAC) survey conducted on fifty randomly selected children indicate that almost a quarter of children under the age of 5 could die as a direct result of malnutrition. NGOs Concern, Catholic Relief Service (CRS) and COSV (Comitato di Coordinamento delle Organizzazioni per Il Servizio Volontario) are preparing appropriate interventions.
- (l) In line with WFP's 2005 action plan for expanding food assistance to areas currently not being accessed in Darfur, WFP has deployed a team of three Security Officers and three Food Needs Assessment Officers to South Darfur on 21 May. The team will be assessing and prioritizing food security in more than 200 locations that have been identified by the GoS, CPs and WFP.
- (m) Diesel supply continues to be inconsistent and unreliable, particularly in El Obeid where regular supply and storage has not been stabilized. However, one of WFP's contracted transporters is bringing fuel in from Port Sudan and is not facing any difficulties.
- (n) WFP-Humanitarian Air Service (HAS), which provides services to the entire humanitarian community in Sudan, is facing a severe funding shortfall. The operation has received only USD 9 million of almost USD24 million required for 2005. WFP-HAS

urgently needs an additional USD5 million to ensure continued air services, particularly in view of the approaching rainy season. Without immediate donor support, WFP-HAS will be forced to reduce the number of destinations and/or limit passenger flights and discontinue the delivery of Non-Food Items.

- (o) As of 21 May, Darfur EMOP 10339.1 faces a shortfall of USD 176 million, representing 38 percent of total requirements (USD467.1 million). Despite the significantly improved pipeline for Darfur following an internal transfer of USD28 million, donor support is critical to allow Darfur EMOP to repay 31,000 tons received from other Sudan operations and outstanding Immediate Response Account (IRA) loans of USD20.5 million. In addition, WFP needs to reimburse the USD 28 million transferred from various budget lines of the emergency operation to ensure continued recruitment of staff and payments to transporters.
- (p) The Special Operation for logistics support in Darfur faces a shortfall of USD 21 million. The procurement of 50 long-haul trucks is on hold until funds are made available.
- (q) SOUTH, EAST AND TRANSITIONAL AREAS:
- (r) The joint inter-agency cross-line mission was temporarily suspended on 18 May, when local authorities in New Fangak area in Jonglei State demanded double the rations received by other communities. Following negotiations with local authorities and an inter-agency meeting in WFP office in Malakal, food distributions resumed on 24 May to remaining locations along the Tonga-Zeraf corridor, following a security assessment on 23 May. As of 19 May, a total of almost 320 tons of assorted food commodities has been distributed to 17,275 beneficiaries along the White Nile (Yabus, Kurmuk, Wadega/Mayak and Ganyiel/Pulmok locations along the Zeraf corridor).
- (s) Preparations for a second airdrop operation on 29 May are currently underway to provide 14 tons in the form of a two-week food ration to an estimated 3,000 vulnerable IDPs from Mabia IDP camp, Western Bahr El Ghazal, who are in transit in Korfil, 145 Km from Mabia, en route to Deim-Zubair. WFP also continued to provide food assistance to returnees (from Mabia IDP camp) at Bazia transit point. During the period from 24 April to 13 May, WFP provided a two-week transit package to 1,185 returnees en route to Deim-Zubair via Wau. Preparations are currently ongoing to preposition a joint assistance package at Deim-Zubair.
- (t) During the past week, WFP's CP, Save the Children-US, distributed 255 tons of food commodities to 7,435 old IDPs and returnees in Abyei, West Kordofan. Returnees arrived from different locations in northern Sudan and were officially registered in March this year. WFP will undertake food distributions to assist 3,016 IDPs in En Nuhud, North Kordofan in the coming week.
- (u) Reports from different agencies indicated an increase in malnutrition rates in various locations in Upper Nile State. In Leer, Médecins Sans Frontières (MSF)-Holland reported that there is a 50 percent increase in the number of malnourished persons attending the feeding centre. Other affected locations include Tam, Chotbura and Nimni in Western Upper Nile. WFP is closely monitoring the situation.
- (v) A total of 80 children were screened and admitted to a therapeutic feeding programme in Alek, Gogrial West county in Bahr El Ghazal. Sixty-four children were immediately admitted due to their poor nutritional status. WFP will deliver 15 tons of food to support this programme. A total of 17 tons of assorted food commodities was delivered to Nyamlell to support 152 patients receiving food assistance under an in-patient feeding programme run by the International Rescue Committee. Another 72 tons of assorted food commodities were delivered to Tialiet to support 4,000 beneficiaries under supplementary and therapeutic feeding programmes. The food is expected to cover beneficiary requirements for six months.

- (w) Results of a post-distribution monitoring (PDM) exercise of general food distribution in Pibor, Upper Nile State, targeting 27,500 beneficiaries in March, indicate increasing vulnerability and diminishing coping strategies of those surveyed. All 76 female-headed households reported that food distributed was insufficient to cover the needs of households surveyed. Monthly rations lasted two weeks primarily because it was shared with relatives who arrived from neighbouring areas to receive WFP food. The team found that the situation for 196 Ethiopian refugees was particularly precarious, as they reported that they had no access to food. The situation is exacerbated by the poor 2004 harvest and significant increase in the prices of staple food. WFP is making preparations to start an airdrop operation targeting beneficiaries in Pibor and surrounding areas on 11 June.
- (x) The final report of the inter-agency rapid needs assessment conducted between 24 March and 18 April in 30 locations in South Sudan was released during the week. The assessment aimed at estimating the effects of increased returns into South Sudan in light of the poor agricultural production experienced in 2004; identifying areas of acute needs and determining whether or not the recommendations of the 2004 multi-agency Annual Needs Assessment (ANA) remained valid.
- (y) The results showed that the present food security situation is consistent with the onset of the hunger season which is characterised by reduced household food availability and access. The vulnerability levels projected by the ANA 2004 still hold at this point in time. However, there are some additional pockets of food insecurity in areas where acute needs have risen due to inter-clan conflicts, increased population returns, and activities by the militia and the Ugandan Lord's Resistance Army (LRA).
- (z) The situation needs to be monitored as the hunger season starts and timely interventions of the identified inputs are crucial to ensure that the situation does not deteriorate. The food allocation within the current emergency operation (EMOP 10048.3) of 176,000 tons is sufficient to cover the food needs envisaged in 2005; however, EMOP 10048.3 is presently resourced well below this level.
- (aa) There is an urgent need to address the provision of essential non-food items, in particular, potable water must be made available and the construction and rehabilitation of livestock water points, which are a major cause of conflicts, must be given priority. Health services, education materials and facilities, as well as seeds and tools are essential for the food security of the people of South Sudan. Peace-building and reconciliation initiatives are also critical to address the disruptive inter-clan conflicts.
- (ab) The final report of the Food and Nutrition Baseline Study in the Red Sea State (RSS) and the Kassala state was released on 23 May. Results point to chronic food insecurity and diminishing coping strategies. In both states, the most vulnerable groups are found in remote rural communities, especially among traditional pastoral communities in the RSS and those with limited access to agricultural land in Kassala, such as IDPs and refugees. More than one-half of the households surveyed in both states have begun to reduce both the size and number of meals and no households reported any remaining grain stocks.
- (ac) The study also found all households in RSS and 91 percent of households in Kassala to be food deficit in terms of their own production. The rate of severe wasting is 5.8 percent in Kassala and 3.8 percent in the RSS; global acute malnutrition is at 17 percent in Kassala and 19 percent in RSS. Rates of chronic malnutrition are higher in Kassala than in RSS. The rate of severe stunting is 19 percent in Kassala and 15 percent in the RSS. The study noted that these measures of malnutrition are high by international standards.
- (ad) As of 21 May, the EMOP 10048.3 faces a 74 percent shortfall against its operational requirements. To date, this EMOP, valued at USD 302 million, has received USD 78

million, representing approximately 26 percent of the total operational requirements. WFP requires 27,115 tons of mixed commodities from May to October. While the pipeline has improved due to the loan of USD 34.7 million received from WFP (Business Process Review mechanism), it is nonetheless critical that additional contributions are pledged in order to repay this loan, meet food requirements in the coming months, and allow commodities to be pre-positioned in the major hubs prior to an expected increase in spontaneous returns after the rainy season (October 2004).

- (ae) The supporting Special operation 10368.0, Emergency road repair and mine clearance of key transport routes in Sudan in support of this emergency operation, has received a total of USD 68 million, representing a 24 percent shortfall against its operational requirements of USD89 million.

## **(11) Tanzania**

- (a) A total of about 1,500 refugees voluntarily returned to Burundi between 1 and 20 May.
- (b) WFP food distribution continues to reach close to 400,500 refugees. During the past week, WFP distributed some 1,400 tons of food through general distribution, supplementary and therapeutic feeding in refugee camps in western Tanzania. More than 7,000 food insecure and otherwise vulnerable Tanzanians in the host communities surrounding the camps were also supported with WFP host community activities, including access to camp-based health care facilities, school feeding, Food-For-Work, Food-For-Training and Food-For-Hospital in-patients.
- (c) The PRRO Tanzania is facing serious pipeline problems with a shortfall of 22,978 tons of food up to 31 January 2006. At present, no pulses or salt are being distributed. From 23 May, rations have been cut to only 1,500 Kcal/day, which is far from what is nutritionally required for healthy survival of beneficiaries. Further reductions are anticipated for the coming weeks.
- (d) During meetings with WFP, refugees expressed severe concern on the current food situation. In addition to facing a daily intake of only 1,500 Kcal, refugees have to cope with restrictions on their movement and employment. This limits their ability to complement their diets. As the rainy season has now ended, it is difficult to grow vegetables, as the camp water supply cannot cater for garden irrigation. Refugees said that most families are forced to reduce and/or skip meals. This may cause malnutrition among children, could increase the school drop-out rates and increase cases of morbidity and mortality.
- (e) A newly released WFP report on gender policy revealed that the proportion of women as food recipients was more than 50 percent for the general food distribution in 2004. In contrast to this positive figure, the report stated that the proportion of women's participation in the Food-For-Training activities in the PRRO was 25 percent, far below the targeted 70 percent.
- (f) A new contribution of USD 1,060,000 has been received for the local or regional purchase of cereals under the Great Lakes PRRO.

## **(12) Uganda**

- (a) The chief negotiator between the Government and the Lord's Resistance Army (LRA), Ms. Betty Bigombe, continues to maintain contact with the LRA top leadership. In a latest development, Mr. Jacob Frydenlund, a senior Norwegian diplomat, has been seconded by the international community as a co-mediator of the peace effort in northern Uganda. Despite the renewed dialogue between Ms. Bigombe and the LRA leadership, the security situation in northern Uganda (Gulu, Kitgum, Pader and Lira districts) remains very fluid, with increased rebel movement in small groups. The rebels

continue to commit atrocities against the population - abducting children, looting, killing civilians and staging ambushes along major roads. The Uganda People's Defence Force (UPDF) military offensive against the LRA continues. On 18 May, Samuel Okumu, a senior LRA commander was killed in a clash with the UPDF.

- (b) WFP food distribution continues to reach 1.4 million displaced persons, 192,000 refugees and other vulnerable persons. During the past week, WFP distributed 3,565 tons of relief food assistance to 358,990 persons, including IDPs sheltering in camps in Gulu, Kitgum, Pader and Lira districts, refugees, children in nutrition centres and other vulnerable persons.
- (c) WFP conducted a rapid assessment of the situation of 559 people from 27 families evicted from Moyo forest reserves in late April; findings indicate that the refugees are sheltering in a makeshift grass-thatched structure, lack adequate food, water and sanitation facilities and are forced to sell their labour in exchange for food. Although Yumbe district authorities allocated some land for the displaced people to settle and begin cultivating, they are reluctant to move to the place because of lack of access roads, food, shelter, seeds, hoes and clean water. The lean months of May, June and July, when host communities' food stocks are low, have already begun and opportunities for casual labour in exchange for food will decrease, worsening the food security situation among the displaced. WFP is providing relief assistance to this caseload for seven months until they harvest their own food in November/December.
- (d) WFP, together with UNCHR, Office of the Prime Minister–Department for refugees, and NGO partners, conducted a Joint Assessment Mission from 9 to 22 May to assess/review the food security situation among refugees in Uganda with a view to determine appropriate ration levels for the next six months - June-November 2005; review strategies for provision of other social services to the refugees; and review strategies for strengthening food security amongst refugee-hosting communities.
- (e) WFP faces a shortfall of over 92,435 tons of food commodities, with a funding gap of USD 50 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) Regional (2) Burkina Faso (3) Chad (4) Cote d'Ivoire (5) Ghana (6) Guinea (7) Liberia (8) Sierra Leone

### **(1) Regional**

### **(2) Burkina Faso**

- (a) An interagency mission for contingency planning was completed in early May in provinces bordering Togo. Having recently completed interagency training in Crisis Management for COPRASUR (local emergency response committees) in areas bordering Cote d'Ivoire, plans are now underway to conduct similar training in provinces bordering Togo.

### **(3) Chad**

- (a) The overall security situation is fairly calm in eastern Chad. Minor incidents were reported, but they had no negative impact on humanitarian operations.
- (b) Food distributions, accompanied by verifications, were resumed in Iridimi, Mille and Kounoungou, where some disruptions and incidents had been encountered last week. Calm was restored following sensitisation efforts undertaken by WFP and partners,

directly with refugees populations. The situation in Touloum has seen only slight improvements, as differences among various refugee committees in the camp remained. Efforts are underway to resume discussions with the refugees' traditional leaders and to find ways to provide food assistance to the refugees as soon as possible.

- (c) The number of beneficiaries that WFP is currently targeting for its distributions stands at 193,300 refugees, pending results of ongoing verification exercises as well as the transfer of refugees from border sites. Transfers of refugees to the new camp of Gaga are underway, with some 3,000 so far settled. Another 600 newly identified spontaneous refugees are expected to be transferred to the camp shortly.
- (d) Overall malnutrition rates are stable in most camps. The 30 severely malnourished children transferred from Oure Cassoni camp last week are currently receiving intensive treatment in therapeutic feeding centres (TFC) run by Médecins Sans Frontières (MSF)-Luxembourg in Iriba. In addition, all severely malnourished children in Touloum have also been transferred to the TFC in Iriba to receive necessary treatment. IMC and MSF-L reported a rise in diarrhoea and dehydration cases in Iridimi, Touloum and Am Nabak camps. The causes are currently being investigated by both partners.
- (e) WFP general food distributions have been completed in most camps and are ongoing in Iridimi and Bredjing. For the month of May, Food Basket Monitoring (FBM) was conducted in Oure Cassoni, Iridimi, Mille and Kounoungou camps by Action Contre la Faim (ACF) and in Bredjing, Treguine and Farchana camps by Première Urgence. Meanwhile, post distribution monitoring is set to take place in these camps some 15 to 22 days following general food distributions. Under the Blanket Supplementary Feeding (BSF) programme, WFP distributed some 64 tons of food to a total of 14,500 beneficiaries in Djabal, Iridimi and Oure Cassoni. Some 4,000 beneficiaries in Touloum are also expected to be assisted with BSF, once the situation is resolved.
- (f) WFP Food-For-Work (FFW) activities are underway. Partners have demonstrated an increased interest to launch new projects in favour of local populations. From 19 to 25 May, WFP distributed some 40 tons of food to a total of 660 FFW workers (heads of households) in Bahai and Iriba. Currently, discussions are underway between WFP and the Chiefs of Moudre and Guereda to implement a number of FFW projects in their respective villages.
- (g) A convoy of 42 trucks carrying some 1,000 tons of wheat ex. Libyan corridor arrived in Abéché during the past week. The consignment was immediately dispatched to Bredjing, Treguine, Farchana and Goz Amir to proceed with pre-positioning. WFP food pre-positioning for the rainy season is progressing in central and northern camps, in line with the upcoming arrivals via the Libyan corridor.

#### **(4) Cote d'Ivoire**

- (a) From 19 to 25 May, over 575 tons of food were distributed to nearly 52,000 people. This includes distributions to approximately 5,700 refugees still living in camps in Guiglo.
- (b) WFP's office in Man reports that the number of beneficiaries in the therapeutic centres is increasing. According to WFP's partner Médecins Sans Frontières Belgium, the increase is a consequence of the lean season. In addition to therapeutic feeding centres, WFP is currently providing food assistance through several different types of programme in this area, including supplementary feeding, school feeding and seed protection/food for agriculture projects. In this programme, seeds and tools are provided together with a seed protection ration to ensure that the families do not need to eat the seeds to meet immediate food needs and have enough energy to prepare their fields.

#### **(5) Ghana**

- (a) During the past month, 7,800 refugees (89 percent of the targeted number) received rations from WFP through the Cote d'Ivoire Regional PRRO 10372. A total of 130 tons of commodities were distributed, under coordinated of the National Catholic Secretariat (NCS), in collaboration with WFP and UNHCR.
- (b) WFP and UNHCR are conducting a nutrition survey in Buduburam refugee camp with the aim of ensuring an objective baseline for health and nutrition interventions. The outcomes of the survey will also enable WFP to ensure a beneficial level of food assistance and targeted nutrition and self-reliance programs, and will support the implementation of a comprehensive Health Information System.

## **(6) Guinea**

- (a) The prepositioning of food in the warehouses close to the distribution points is almost completed. This will avoid logistical constraints during the coming rainy season. The implementation of the new beneficiary identification system has posed problems in the monthly general food distributions and the distributions periods have had to be extended in all the camps where the new system has been put in place.
- (b) Thanks to the loans received from Chad and Liberia, WFP's pipeline situation in Guinea has slightly improved. However a shortfall of some 705 tons is still foreseen over the next six months. WFP Guinea continues to distribute the reduced ration of 1600 Kcal/day to Liberian refugees. Food-For-Work and Food-For-Training activities which were planned to start in January are still suspended due to lack of resources.
- (c) The evaluation of emergency school feeding schools was finalised during the past week. Hundred-fifty schools meeting the criteria will be selected to be transferred from the PRRO to the Country Programme for the 05-06 school year.

## **(7) Liberia**

- (a) From 18 to 24 May, more than 200,000 vulnerable beneficiaries received nearly 1,400 tons of WFP provided food in Liberia. This included more than 83,000 beneficiaries who are receiving general rations, 56,000 of whom are IDPs residing in camps in Montserrado and Margibi Counties.
- (b) In order to start emergency school feeding (ESF) activities in River Gee County, WFP conducted training for 154 school administrators from 54 schools in the County. To date, River Gee is the fourteenth county where WFP has launched the ESF programme. The objective of the training was to provide school administrators with knowledge and skills needed for implementing and reporting on school feeding activities in schools.

## **(8) Sierra Leone**

- (a) WFP has taken several steps to mitigate the impact of pipeline shortfalls due to insufficient resources, including the reduction of general rations for refugees (living in camps); as of May 2005, rations have been reduced from 2100 Kcal person/day to 1660 Kcal person/day.
- (b) Food-For-Work (FFW) and Food-For-Training (FFT) activities have been suspended since June 2004, with intermittent activities (for FFT) in September 2004. Planned expansions for Emergency School Feeding (ESF) have been halted, and ESF rations are being reduced as of May 2005 (cereal has been reduced from 100g to 75g; vegetable oil has been reduced from 20g to 10g).

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

## **(1) Regional**

- (a) During an ongoing southern African visit, James Morris, WFP's Executive Director and UN Special Envoy for southern Africa, UNICEF's newly appointed Executive Director Ann Veneman, and UNAIDS Executive Director Peter Piot have called for the world to refocus its attention on the chronic problems and humanitarian needs of millions of people in southern Africa, especially children. They warned that although great strides have been made by governments and the international community in meeting the most critical needs, the region is entering another acute phase of a chronic problem. The 'triple threat' of HIV/AIDS, food insecurity and weakening capacity for service delivery is rapidly reversing development gains, leaving communities and entire societies more vulnerable to external shocks such as droughts or socio-economic issues.
- (b) Previously thought of as a consequence, ever-increasing prevalence rates have elevated HIV/AIDS to the core of the problem. The three leaders emphasised the complexity of the situation: without food antiretrovirals are less effective, without antiretrovirals, children become orphans; and, without a healthy and educated next generation, southern Africa will have mammoth difficulties in breaking the cycle of poverty. The unprecedented nature of the crisis demands support and action from the international community to assist governments.
- (c) While funding is available through a variety of new channels to help address the HIV/AIDS pandemic, it is clear that funds alone will not secure lives and livelihoods. "No one UN agency, no donor and no government can do this alone. This is about partnerships and putting everything we have into tackling this together and making the money work," Morris said.

## **(2) Angola**

- (a) On 2 June, WFP will present donors with the findings of a food security assessment mission recently undertaken in Kuando Kubango Province. The mission took place subsequent to reliable reports of insufficient rainfall and the prospects of an inadequate harvest, as well as resettlement difficulties of previously displaced populations.
- (b) In May, WFP has closed two field offices in Moxico Province. A new field office will be opened in Lumbala N'guimbo Municipality in order to better serve the needs of new refugee arrivals from Zambia.
- (c) The WFP Angola Protracted Relief and Recovery Operation, PRRO 10054.2, Assistance to War Affected People, remains severely under-funded. The PRRO requires approximately US\$18 million or 27,000 tons of food to complete the operation through the end of 2005. With ration cuts currently underway, without immediate new contributions, WFP will have to introduce even more severe distribution cuts in the coming months.

## **(3) Lesotho**

- (a) From 18 to 24 May, WFP and cooperating partners distributed approximately 1,500 tons of food to 121,000 beneficiaries involved in mother and child health care, early childhood care and development and vulnerable group feeding, as well to orphans and other vulnerable children; HIV/AIDS and tuberculosis patients enrolled in clinics and home-based care projects; as well as Food-for-Work participants.

## **(4) Malawi**

- (a) The Malawi Vulnerability Assessment Committee report has been presented to key stakeholders. WFP is currently reviewing the results in order to be able to assist the affected vulnerable population

**(5) Swaziland**

- (a) From 17 to 23 May, WFP and implementing partners distributed food aid to approximately 29,000 people.
- (b) The Ministry of Agriculture and Co-operatives organized a Stakeholders workshop in order to review a draft Food Security Policy. Participants analysed and identified critical issues and strategies of the policy, which seeks to ensure that all Swazi citizens, especially under-five vulnerable children, have access to nutritious food at all times. Upon finalization, the policy will be submitted to the government Cabinet for approval.

**(6) Zambia**

- (a) The UN Secretary General's Special Envoy for Humanitarian Needs in southern Africa, and Executive Director of WFP, visited Zambia and indicated that a significant increase in international assistance will be required in the coming months. With erratic rainfall and weather patterns during the 2004/05 season, agricultural yields have been reduced by as much as 90 percent in some regions of the country. Compounded by the HIV/AIDS pandemic, approximately 1.5 million people will require food assistance this year.

**(7) Zimbabwe**

- (a) Since 19 May, the government further devaluated the Zimbabwe dollar by 31 percent. However, the parallel market rate remains almost three times higher than the revised rate and shows no signs of decline. Despite the devaluation, shortages of basic food commodities such as maize meal, cooking oil and sugar continue.
- (b) Now in its second month, a nationwide fuel shortage is deepening, with a crippling effect on public transportation and industry.
- (c) The government recently announced that the HIV prevalence rate had recorded a slight decline. The decrease is yet to be confirmed by independent sources. Approximately 2 million Zimbabweans are currently living with HIV/AIDS.

**(F) Asia: (1) Bangladesh (2) Indonesia (3) Korea (DPR) (4) Maldives (5) Sri Lanka****(1) Bangladesh**

- (a) A number of severe storms accompanied by strong winds, heavy rain and hail, have hit Bangladesh over the past several weeks. One of the districts in northeast Bangladesh reportedly was affected by flash flooding, causing the temporary inundation of some 80 villages.
- (b) Over 600,000 children in flood-affected areas receive high-energy biscuits under Emergency Operation (EMOP) 10380, Assistance to Flood Affected People in Bangladesh. Subject to the approval of a proposed budget-extension with a no-cost extension in time, the school feeding programme might continue until end November 2005.
- (c) Under the same EMOP, in April, a total of 23,500 unskilled participants (over 90 percent women), received food assistance through various micro-level livelihood activities. Meanwhile, the selection of beneficiaries for activities under the rural livelihoods support programme, also part of the EMOP, is underway.
- (d) Resourcing levels of the EMOP stand at almost 47 percent.

**(2) Indonesia**

- (a) Indonesia's government lifted the emergency law that was imposed on Aceh last year. Furthermore, a fourth round of peace talks between the GAM and the Government of Indonesia is ongoing in Helsinki, Finland until 31 May.
- (b) On 19 May, a earthquake with a magnitude of 6.7 (Richter scale) near the island of Simeulue was felt strongly. Three days later, on 22 May, a magnitude 5.6 earthquake 65 km west of Banda Aceh resulted in large new cracks in some of the buildings.
- (c) The number of beneficiaries reached in April is currently estimated at approximately 1,081,000. They were provided with some 8,300 tons of food, including rice, vegetable oil and canned fish.
- (d) The planned caseload for the month of May has been adjusted to 772,000 beneficiaries. During the past week, about 6,000 IDPs in Krueng Sabee and 2,600 IDPs in Calang, both in the district of Aceh Jaya, received food through WFP's direct delivery. The food distribution for Panga sub-district was planned to commence on 25 May, covering approximately 5,900 IDPs. In these areas, distributions are made in cooperation with village chiefs following the withdrawal of Action Contre la Faim last month.
- (e) Recently, 156,000 primary school children were assisted along with school teachers. The school feeding programme is currently being implemented in 9 districts, namely Banda Aceh, Aceh Besar, Pidie, Aceh Jaya, Aceh Barat, Nagan Raya, Lhokseumawe, Aceh Utara and Simeulue.
- (f) A pilot phase of the nutrition rehabilitation programme has started on 17 May, at a satellite health post in Muara Batu in Aceh Utara. The initial target is some 100 women and 750 children from 8 villages out of 24 villages covered by the health post. The programme will gradually expand to the remaining villages by providing nutritional supplements to 3,200 children and 560 pregnant women at the health post.

### **(3) Korea (DPR)**

- (a) From 21 to 27 May, seventeen out of 19 WFP- supported factories were operational . Biscuit factory no.2 in Pyongyang and the noodle factory in Chongjin have suspended production after running out of wheat flour, due to increased production in March-April. Production for the third week of May was 1,440 tons or almost 100 per cent of the EMOP's weekly requirement.
- (b) As part of WFP's new monitoring system, the first household food security assessment started this week throughout the country. For 10 days, WFP monitoring teams will be conducting family household interviews, focus group discussions and observational walks within the communities of 300 households. The focus of the assessment is to ascertain the coping strategies adopted by vulnerable families during the ongoing lean season. A follow-up assessment is scheduled to take place in autumn.
- (c) Without new donations of cereals, WFP will be forced to suspend assistance to elderly people, primary school children 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. Moreover, with current resources, WFP-supported factories producing fortified food for children and PNWs will only be able to operate until end-August, while assistance to orphanages and hospitals can only be maintained until end-September.

### **(4) Maldives**

- (a) Due to weather conditions the National Security Service has been facing some delays in getting food from the Forward Coordinating Centres to the islands.
- (b) During a monitoring trip to Ari atoll it was found that there some people are sharing food

on the islands. Some of the islands chiefs have found it difficult, due to political reasons, not to give food to the entire island and have therefore distributed food to the whole island community. This has resulted in beneficiaries getting less than what they are entitled to. Given that this was the last food distribution to this atoll and that the ration sizes were generous, no actions will be taken.

- (c) The State Trading Organisation (STO) and WFP will issue a joint press release to newspapers, radio and national television, informing the public about the sale of the 604 tons, replaced by WFP. This is per the Letter of Understanding and covers the rice lent to WFP from the STO for the general food distributions in the initial stages following the tsunami. The aim is to prevent confusion among the general public about WFP food aid being sold in the STO shops.
- (d) The UN Special Envoy, former President Bill Clinton, is expected in the Maldives on 28-29 May. His visit will include meetings with the UN Country Team, a visit with the President and other key government officials, meetings with members of civil society and a site visit.

## **(5) Sri Lanka**

- (a) There has been growing tension throughout the week in Trincomalee district and fears that hartals (general strikes restricting movement and causing offices, shops and schools to close) could be called for the entire East and Northeast. Normal activities in Trincomalee town were disrupted, some property destroyed and several people injured in a series of hand grenade explosions over the week.
- (b) WFP has donated 85 motorbikes (complete with 85 jackets and 85 helmets), 40 computers and 40 printers to the Ministry of Relief, Reconciliation and Rehabilitation (MRRR) to boost the government's capacity in food monitoring and reporting activities. The equipment will be shipped to the districts and distributed to local government offices in the tsunami and conflict-affected areas.
- (c) Food distributions, which had been temporarily stopped in most districts to allow for data reconciliation, will resume on 27 May. WFP is expecting the MRRR to quickly provide food distribution and monitoring reports. WFP and MRRR agreed that food distributions should now be carried out monthly instead of weekly.
- (d) A Real Time Evaluation mission is currently undertaking its work in Sri Lanka.

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

### **(1) Bolivia**

- (a) Two military rebels declared on Wednesday 25 the intention of a military coup, after which, with support of the social movements, all natural resources in the country would be immediately nationalized. The head of Bolivia's armed forces quickly disassociated himself from the declaration, denouncing the act as an irresponsible and isolated act by the two rebels. He guaranteed the army's absolute support to democracy and President Mesa's term.
- (b) Protest marches continued during the week. Despite clashes between police and protesters, no casualties were reported. On Wednesday 25 May, some domestic flights were resumed. Public schools continued to be closed due to a strike by teachers. Banking sector employees worked part-time only.
- (c) La Paz continues to be isolated from the rest of the country as road blockades remain along the highway to Oruro.
- (d) WFP monitoring missions are expected to witness crop failures in many communities.

In the Municipality of Gutierrez and Charagua, some fields were affected again by an irregular distribution of rainfall, causing more crop losses of up to 80 percent.

- (e) Emergency rations continued to be distributed in the Municipalities of Camiri, Cuevo and Boyuibe. Some 1,390 families received approximately 85 tons of food.
- (f) Implementing partners and beneficiaries have requested WFP to support them with final distribution costs. Due to the long distances from intermediate (implementing partner) warehouses to most of the communities, costs are too high to be completely covered by partners. WFP will support these costs upon availability of resources.

## **(2) Cuba**

- (a) There was slightly more rainfall in the eastern provinces of the country during the week, but less than in 2004 at this time of the year and consequently not enough to replenish the dams and reservoirs. Due to the severe drought situation, some 2,608,605 people are affected overall and 1,341,025 of them no longer have direct water supply in their homes. The provinces most affected are Camaguey, Las Tunas and Holguin. Climate forecasts do not indicate significant improvements for the coming months.
- (b) Out of 235 dams in the country, 148 are below 25 percent of their capacity. The provinces of Camaguey (20 dams), Las Tunas (15 dams) and Holguin (11 dams) are in the worst situation and 58 dams in the country have already dried up completely. The Government continues implementing all necessary measures to overcome the crisis by constructing new water pipelines in the eastern region and by providing the population with the required materials and pumps to build reservoirs for collective use, as well as setting up water filling stations for tank trucks. Also as part of the emergency measures, the government is selling water reservoirs of different sizes to the population at subsidized prices.
- (c) The population in the six most affected provinces of Las Tunas, Holguín, Granma, Santiago de Cuba, Guantánamo and Camaguey, continue receiving a monthly 'free-of-charge' ration of food consisting of rice and beans, in addition to the one distributed to the general population in the country through the national distribution network.
- (d) Last month, a three-month Emergency Operation for Cuba, EMOP 10423.0, was approved. This EMOP will reach 773,000 people by providing assistance to vulnerable groups (pregnant and nursing women, children under five years old and elderly people) affected by the drought, with a complementary food ration of rice, beans and vegetable oil. The total cost of this operation will be of USD 3,725,522.

## **(3) Ecuador**

- (a) The activity of the Reventador Volcano has increased considerably since 18 May. Within the next 8 to 10 weeks, lava flows may generate avalanches and incandescent rocks that may descend rapidly to the drainage of the Montana River and continue to the Coca River. If this phenomenon occurs, the infrastructure in the surrounding areas may be seriously affected (i.e. roads and oil pipeline).
- (b) In addition, in Tumbes, near the border with Peru, a 6.1 (Richter scale) quake was registered, causing the collapse of 4 houses.

## **(4) El Salvador**

- (a) After making landfall last Friday 20 May, hurricane Adrian dissipated and was downgraded to a Tropical Storm shortly after reaching the Pacific coast. Adrian was the earliest landfall tropical cyclone on record and is the first recorded Pacific hurricane to strike El Salvador. Tropical disturbances are often born in the waters near El Salvador,

but almost always proceed NW along the coast, towards Mexico.

- (b) No deaths or significant landslides or floods have been reported as a consequence of the hurricane. The Government organized the evacuation of 15,000 people from vulnerable areas who were able to return home progressively over last week-end. There have been no reports of significant damage to property or infrastructure country-wide, and electrical services were restored to coastal areas during last week-end.
- (c) The UN Resident Coordinator stated that the coordinated response to the hurricanes threat by both UN Agencies and the NGO community was commendable and was in the end an invaluable exercise before the start of the Atlantic hurricane season on 1 June (the hurricane season in the Eastern Pacific runs from 15 May to 30 November). The establishment of WFP's Emergency Hub for Central America in El Salvador was also discussed with UN Country Team members, who highlighted its importance and expressed their support to the project.

## **(5) Guatemala**

- (a) According to the National Coordinating Committee for Disaster Reduction (CONRED), heavy rains as a result of last week's hurricane Adrian threatened various areas of five provinces: Escuintla, Santa Rosa, Jalapa, Jutiapa and Chiquimula. Evacuations took place in the Province of Santa Rosa and Jutiapa, totaling around 300 people. The Government and the UN Disaster Management Team closely monitored the situation during the last week-end. The National Institute of Seismology, Vulcanology, Meteorology and Hydrology (INSIVUMEH) registered a series of tremors during the week. The events were felt, but no damage or injuries were reported. A total of 126 tons of maize, beans, CSB and vegetable oil were distributed to community-based centres in the Province of Baja Verapaz and Quiche for the nutritional recovery of children under 5 years old and pregnant/nursing women suffering of acute malnutrition. This food distribution will benefit a total of some 1,505 families (7,520 beneficiaries). A joint Government-WFP needs assessment mission that started on 12 May is currently in the field to assess the food security and nutrition situation in the poorest areas, as a basis for the design of a future intervention aimed at addressing malnutrition among children under 3 years of age. Five inter-institutional teams moved to the countryside to gather relevant information at the community and regional levels. The assessment activities are implemented in close coordination with the Anti-Hunger Front.

## **(6) Honduras**

- (a) No major damage as a consequence of hurricane Adrian were reported in Honduras. Considerable rainfall fell in most of the country (mainly in the southern and central regions). Some 85 families were evacuated from affected areas and temporarily hosted in a school. In Tegucigalpa heavy rains damaged various houses. Preliminary reports mentioned damages to agriculture, but this will have to be confirmed in coming days. WFP has fielded missions in every department to work with the emergency committees in order to assess the impact of the hurricane. As part of the preparedness activities, WFP had prep-positioned additional stocks for a quick response in Intibucá, Santa Rosa de Copán, Ocotepeque, Marcala and San Lorenzo.

## **(7) Nicaragua**

- (a) In Nicaragua, hurricane Adrian and tropical storm number 3 caused heavy rains that affected large parts of the country. Particularly heavy rainfall was observed in the northern departments of Nicaragua, in the regions of Chinandega, León, Estelí, Madriz, Nueva Segovia, Matagalpa and Jinotega. According to the National Civil Defence, the

rains affected more than 1000 persons and 193 houses were destroyed. Approximately 255 people have been provided temporary shelter. Officially, no significant agricultural losses have been reported.

- (b) The authorities remain on alert as more rains caused by tropical storm number four are expected. The new storm entered the Atlantic region last weekend. WFP is monitoring the situation.
- (c) Approximately 10,363 pregnant and nursing women; 11,159 children under two years old; 1,792 vulnerable rural families and 53,803 schoolchildren in the Central and Northern Atlantic Regions will benefit of food distributions under the Nicaragua of the regional Protracted Relief and Recovery Operation 10212.0
- (d) The PRRO will face shortfalls of rice, beans, vegetable oil, maize and CSB through October 2005, if no commodity donations are announced in the coming months or those that are announced arrive late.

**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](http://www.wfp.org/index.asp?section=2&sub_section=7&page=../subsections/year.asp?section=18)