

World Food Programme Emergency Report 2005
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 Emergency Report 2005-8

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(A) Highlights

- (a) The Government of Indonesia has requested WFP to assume full responsibility for feeding displaced persons in Aceh and North Sumatra.
- (b) Findings of WFP's Emergency Food Security Assessment Mission in Aceh province, Indonesia, were released on 16 February.
- (c) WFP and the Government of Sri Lanka are negotiating in view of the recently issued ban on rice imports. The ban could seriously affect WFP's pipeline from March on.
- (d) The livelihood situational analysis carried out by FAO, WFP and the Ministry of Agriculture in seven administrative units in North Darfur, Sudan, concluded that the resident populations are now beginning to feel the impact of last year's poor rains, coupled with the security situation, which is affecting normal coping mechanisms of people throughout the Darfur region.
- (e) WFP food distributions continue to assist people fleeing civil strife in DRC.
- (f) In Colombia, WFP is preparing for additional food distributions in view of new displacements of people affected by recent flooding and violence.
- (g) A national strike of school teachers is affecting WFP's school feeding programme in Nicaragua.

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

(1) Burundi

- (a) Cases of armed banditry continue to be reported in several provinces. Alleged thieves were caught and killed on the spot by local populations in Bujumbura and Kayanza.
- (b) WFP distributed close to 2,000 tons of food aid to over 272,000 beneficiaries.
- (c) The joint FAO/WFP/UNICEF/Ministry of Agriculture (MINAGRI) Crop and Food Supply Assessment Mission (CFSAM) was completed and the draft report is being finalised. The results show an increased need for food assistance throughout the year. Food insecurity affects most provinces in the country with the north, east and central parts

being most affected. Food aid distributions have been augmented by more than 50 percent for the forthcoming Seeds Protection Rations campaign.

- (d) Beneficiaries interviewed in an HIV/AIDS centre in Gitega province have requested an increase in their food ration in order to cope better with the side effects of their anti-retroviral drugs treatment.

(2) Congo, DR

- (a) Insecurity continued to prevail in the East. Attention was focused on the violence which unrolled in the Ituri district, causing the displacement of up to 80,000 persons, according to MONUC. This wave of violence was rooted in confrontations between the Hema and Lendu ethnics. Over 70 villages were reportedly burnt down.
- (b) In the South Kivu province, lingering confrontations were still reported in Walungu. Unpaid soldiers continued to ransom peasant farmers through illegal road blocks.
- (c) WFP targeted with food the Ituri newly displaced civilians who were accessible. Out of the estimated 80,000, some 230 tons of food were provided to 27,500 people to cover their needs for one month. Food assistance was distributed together with other items such as medicines, from sister agencies and NGOs. WFP food was distributed by its cooperating partner German Agro Action.
- (d) In the South Kivu province, WFP was preparing for needs assessment missions in several districts, from where alarms had been raised on the food insecurity of peasant farmers. Thousands of people in Kaniola, Kabare, Lobana, Ninja and Budodo were reportedly facing increased food insecurity. In Budodo, WFP distributed about 15 tons of food to cover the needs of about 1,160 eligible beneficiaries for two weeks. During the past week, WFP released over 345 tons of food from its warehouse in Bukavu, to support the various programmes (nutrition, Food-for-Work, Food-for-Training, vulnerable groups feeding, HIV/AIDS, DDDR).

(3) Djibouti

- (a) Under WFP's development project, WFP is supporting school feeding, which aims to provide a morning and a lunch snack six days a week, 200 days a year to around 11,500 children who attend school regularly. WFP together with the government counterpart for the school feeding programme (SFP) last week visited three schools in Tadjourah city and rural schools in Randa, Dorra and Moudo to monitor the functioning of the SFP and to see how the distribution of take-home rations to girls was impacting girls' enrollment and attendance.
- (b) Under the chairmanship of the Minister of Housing and Environment, the Steering Committee of the Obock reconstruction project met on 12 February in Obock city to review the progress of the project and to discuss constraints and lessons learned with technicians and beneficiaries. The Obock reconstruction project, launched in January 2003 aims at reconstructing 304 houses that were destroyed during the internal conflict of 1991-1994. Out of the 240 houses planned for construction in Obock, 115 are already completed. For the three other sites of this project, namely Yoboki (District of Dikhil), Dorra and Randa (District of Tadjourah), where 64 houses are also to be constructed and/or rehabilitated, the works will start in May and are expected to be completed by August. WFP participates in this project by providing food-for-work (FFW) rations to unskilled workers.
- (c) After the failure of the first 2005 convoy of voluntary repatriation on 8 February due to cash problems faced by UNHCR, a convoy of 285 refugees left Djibouti on 14 February to Borama, Abdoukader and Guerissa in Somaliland. Twenty-four families (138 persons) from Holl Holl camp, and 23 families (147 persons) from Ali Addeh camp

participated in the voluntary repatriation. WFP provided nine-month food packages to all refugees. It is expected that in 2005 about 6,200 refugees will return home.

(4) Eritrea

- (a) The President of the UN Security Council said this week that the 15-member body was considering requesting Secretary-General Kofi Annan to send either an envoy or a mission to Ethiopia and Eritrea to help push forward the "political dialogue" between the two Horn of Africa neighbours. The Council was considering this request after Ethiopian troops were seen concentrated on the border with Eritrea, which according to the Ambassador of Benin who holds the Council's rotating presidency for the month "could result in aggravating the tensions between the two countries".
- (b) The central region of Eritrea reports increasing difficulties with water supply, including in Asmara. With only few exceptions, the population receives water only once or twice per week.
- (c) Although the fuel crisis has eased, the coupon system is still in place. WFP has been allocated sufficient diesel for the monitoring of its activities, and food transport is no longer hindered by a shortage of fuel.
- (d) The resettlement of IDPs of the Adi Keshi camp was completed on 10 February. The camp was totally evacuated with most people returning to their places of origin; resettlement/reconstruction activities have started in six villages. All these settlements are equipped with basic public services such as health service, schools and water supply. Some households have yet to be allocated land.
- (e) As of January 2005, WFP has revised its beneficiary figures for Emergency Operation (EMOP) 10261.01, Emergency Food Assistance to Victims of Crop Failure and Drought in Eritrea, upwards. WFP will now provide food to 840,000 people, with a total requirement of 108,508 tons of food. The commitment coverage stands at USD 26 million or approximately 58,000 tons of food commodities. This amount covers about 53 percent of this operation's total resource requirements.
- (f) For the PRRO, a total of 33,908 tons will be required to meet the needs of 325,000 beneficiaries from January to June 2005. Out of this total, some 21,500 tons or 63.5 percent have been resourced and about USD 235,000 have been donated from various sources and can be programmed for the purchase of commodities.

(5) Ethiopia

- (a) WFP Ethiopia's bleak resourcing outlook for emergency food assistance made prioritisation necessary and only the very worst areas received allocations.
- (b) The joint WFP/Regional Disaster Prevention and Preparedness Bureau/UNICEF/Regional Bureau of Health "Extended Outreach Strategy for Child Survival Initiatives" (EOS/CSI), which was initiated in 2004 in the Southern Nations and Nationalities People Region (SNNPR), will now be extended to other regions.
- (c) This targeted supplementary feeding scheme includes nutritional screening and a basic health care package, implemented by the Regional Health Bureau and supported by UNICEF, and a three-month fortified supplementary food ration, consisting of Corn Soy Blend and vitamin A fortified vegetable oil, provided by WFP and the Disaster Prevention and Preparedness Commission to children between 6-59 months and pregnant and nursing women identified as malnourished.
- (d) In Somali region, "training of trainers" took place in January. The participants were staff members representing local government partners in districts that form part of the initiative. The training included health and nutrition education, logistics and implementation. During the coming months, the training will be carried out among

community women who will be food distribution agents and deliver health and nutrition messages to the beneficiaries of the initiative. In Tigray, nutritional screening is currently being undertaken by partners and the first distributions are planned for mid-March. In Amhara, a first action plan is being developed, while food distribution points are being identified by WFP and the regional authorities. Oromia region recently endorsed the initiative, and preparations to start implementation of the program will now start.

- (e) The initiative continues to be implemented in SNNPR, with the third round of distributions currently being carried out to around 106,000 beneficiaries. The program in SNNPR is now advancing to a hand-over phase, with the regional government taking on responsibilities for the full implementation of the food components. WFP will continue to monitor and provide support to the regional authorities.
- (f) Ethiopia's pipeline situation for emergency food assistance remains critical, with cereal resources running out by March. In January, only 26 percent of requirements were met. For February 90 percent of requirements may be covered, depending on indications of additional contributions. Only 11 percent of March's requirements for emergency food have been met, leaving a shortfall of 39,000 tons of cereals. In February, some 2.4 million people are in need of food aid; a figure that will rise to an estimated 2.9 million in March and 3.1 million in April. Contributions to the weak pipeline would ensure continuous assistance to these food insecure populations.

(6) Rwanda

- (a) The political and security situation in Rwanda remained calm. During the past week, the number of Congolese and Burundian refugees in Rwanda totalled 48,065. This is the second highest increase since mid-November 2004.
- (b) Food distributions for the month of February were completed in all refugee camps, except Kiziba camp, where distributions are ongoing. Food distribution for approximately 505 refugees residing outside the camps has been put on hold until UNHCR clarifies the situation.

(7) Somalia

- (a) Phase 1 of WFP's assistance to tsunami-affected people was completed more than a week ago. WFP has been in consultations with other UN agencies carrying out assessments in the field to come up with a uniform approach towards assisting the affected areas.
- (b) WFP and other agencies providing relief assistance to tsunami affected people in Somalia have been meeting with Puntland authorities to arrive at agreeable beneficiary figures, identifying villages that have received half monthly rations and identifying long term intervention strategies that will rebuild livelihoods.

(8) Sudan

- (a) Darfur Region:
- (b) Overall, the security situation was calm in the Darfurs during the past week, except for incidents reported by pilots in North Darfur. Since helicopters had come under small arm fire, helicopter movements on the affected route (to Malha, north east of El Fasher) have been suspended.
- (c) In West Darfur, some positive developments have been spotted as leaders of Arab tribes have this week entered into discussions with the Darfurians. It is still too early to know whether this will translate into a calmer and improved security situation in the area. Security assessments were also undertaken in the past week along the road from

Habilah up through Masteri. After finding another route, the road is open from Geneina along Masteri, as Masteri remains an area with security concerns. Reportedly also another incident took place where armed men disrupted a WFP food distribution by Cooperating Partner (CP) Catholic Relief Services (CRS) in Buri, north of El Geneina. No one was harmed but food commodities were looted. CRS resumed food distribution on Saturday 12 February.

- (d) In South Darfur, the past week has been quiet apart from some cattle looting by unidentified armed elements South East of Nyala. As of 9 February, the road between Zalingie and Nertiti has been declared a GO area, partly due to the increased patrols by AU forces. Similarly, the road between Manwashi and Nyala was cleared by UN Security. However, the road between Manwashi and El Fasher remains closed.
- (e) As of 14 February, a total of some 13,835 tons of food has been dispatched by road and air from Khartoum and El Obeid to the Darfur state capitals, representing 29 percent of the monthly plan. Dispatches to date have been affected by insufficient stocks at hubs for onward dispatch to the Darfurs and the low trucking capacity available from Port Sudan. Dispatches from the three state capitals to Cooperating Partners (CPs) between 1 – 14 February total about 12,020 tons of food to an estimated 686,971 beneficiaries (based on despatches).
- (f) WFP is preparing a special operation to reinforce the logistics corridor in Libya. The corridor will increase the available logistics capacity to assist food deliveries into West Darfur and Chad.
- (g) WFP has commissioned studies to determine the magnitude of the factors impacting food security in Sudan. An in-depth analysis of rainfall and vegetation index is currently being carried out. The results will be available by end of February.
- (h) In West Darfur, a taskforce chaired by IOM is working on the voluntary movement of IDPs from Abuzar to Madrasa. WFP has been providing food through CP Save the Children US to the school where the IDPs have been residing in Abuzar. Madrasa is a newly established camp in Geneina. In Sisi, the Community Relief Committee informed CP Sudanese Red Crescent that the community has requested that food distributions cease until the break in the sugar pipeline has been resolved. In Furu Buranga, results from a recent nutritional survey by Save the Children US indicate a Global Acute Malnutrition rate of 6.6 percent and a SAM rate of 0.3 percent.
- (i) In South Darfur, MSF reported that cases of malnutrition had decreased in Mukjar area, whilst increasing in Um Dokhon. Um Dokhon recently received an influx of IDPs from Rahed El Bird and has fewer water and sanitation facilities. During the week, more than 235 individuals voluntarily returned to South Sudan in the Northern Bahr Al Ghazal after transiting in Khor Omer camp. These individuals, of Dinka origin, reportedly came from Muhajiria, Nyala, Sani Daliba, Abu Karinka and Yassin.
- (j) In North Darfur, in the weekly Food Security Meeting, FAO presented the results of the livelihood situational analysis carried out together with WFP and Ministry of Agriculture. The analysis covered seven administrative units in North Darfur. Overall it was reported that the resident populations are now beginning to feel the impact of the poor rains from last year, coupled with the security situation affecting their normal coping mechanisms. In Abu Shouk, verification by CP Sudanese Red Crescent continues as new arrivals enter the camp. The CP estimates a caseload of 89,000. With the growing numbers, the international community has been requested to organise the new camp (Abushouk II) and provide shelter, water and health services. The February food distribution in Abu Shouk has been delayed due to the lack of sugar.
- (k) Confirmed contributions to date amount to just over USD 240 million – or almost 55 percent of total requirements. WFP has received enough cereals to cover 90 percent of requirements for 2005. However, contributions are urgently required for non-cereals so

that WFP can guarantee a complete food basket to beneficiaries and successfully pre-position to key locations before the onset of the rainy season. WFP has borrowed USD 40 million to pre-finance the purchase of much-needed sugar, salt and other non-cereals in order to overcome shortfalls, in addition to the local purchases of cereals to overcome January shortfalls. Given that the delivery time from Port Sudan to Darfur takes an average of two months, on top of four months for contributions to materialise in Port Sudan, contributions for non-cereals are required by latest March.

- (l) The Special Operation for logistics support in Darfur faces a shortfall of USD 27 million. To ensure that the logistics capacity is in place to support the increased number of beneficiaries expected during the lean season. 100 long haul trucks will have to be procured urgently. In despite of a recent contribution, the WFP-Humanitarian Air Services still faces a shortfall of USD 17 million. Furthermore, the special operation currently being prepared for the logistics corridor through Libya is estimated at USD 4.5 million and will, once approved, require urgent funding to ensure that the corridor can be used prior to the rainy season in support of West Darfur.
- (m) Operations Lifeline Sudan:
- (n) The overall security situation was calm during the week except for one incident reported from Southern Sudan.
- (o) In the South, WFP has made a pilot delivery of 100 tons of cereals by road to Wau during the first week of February. Delivery to Wau via this mode of transport had been suspended since early 2004 due to the security situation. Up to date, 3 out of 5 trucks have already arrived to Wau. The remaining trucks, delayed for technical reasons, are expected to reach the town within the next two days. According to WFP plans, the next 10 trucks will be loaded with 250 tons of assorted food commodities early next week, to continue with pre-positioning before the rainy season.
- (p) Airdrop operations have also taken place during the week in Bahr El Ghazal region. WFP delivered about 149 tons of assorted commodities through airdrop in Aweng, Aroyo, Nyamlel, and Akuem areas in Bahr El Ghazal.
- (q) According to local authorities in Aweil and Twic counties in Bahr El Ghazal, the main return routes for returning IDPs include Meriam-Warawara and Meriam-Gog Machar routes. The community in Warawara has started clearing the proposed airstrip and drop zone, which WFP plans to use for serving the expected returnees on arrival. WFP plans to distribute half-month rations to those returnees.
- (r) In Western Equatoria region, WFP has approved two food-for-asset projects. Another five projects are currently being implemented by Save the Children Fund- Sweden, the major partner in rehabilitation of school infrastructure. Rehabilitation of all the targeted schools is in an advanced stage.
- (s) A joint UN, Government of Sudan and NGOs Nutrition and Food Security survey has started on 17 February in Eastern Sudan to assess the root cause of chronic food insecurity in the region and the possible impact of current insecurity on people's livelihood.
- (t) WFP led a UN Cross-Line Mission that originated from Malakal between 10-16 February. The mission included UNICEF, OCHA, Medair, UNSECOORD, HAC, SRRC and UNFSCO. The mission was preceded by a Cross Line Security Assessment Team that assessed the Malakal-Tonga Corridor. An expected outcome of the assessment is the provision of humanitarian assistance to the Shilluk IDPs who have returned to their villages of origin. WFP has drawn plans of action for airdrops, food distributions, assessments and verification exercises to be conducted in the coming weeks in Pibor, Bor and Malakal surroundings.
- (u) Confirmed contributions received to date against the USD 301 million required for

EMOP 10048.3, Food Assistance to Population Affected by War and Drought, amount to USD 25 million. This represents only 8 percent of the total requirements. A total of 10,774 tons of commodities are confirmed to date against a requirement of 267,899 tons. The EMOP will face pipeline breaks with all commodities running out by June if the requirements for period February through July 2005 are not achieved. The six-month requirements include an allocation for the returnee caseload. The stocks are projected to run out during the critical hunger gap May/June when the food demand is at its peak. Urgent contributions are immediately needed to respond to the pressing food requirements totalling 47,050 tons of mixed commodities.

(9) Tanzania

- (a) In a meeting with refugees in Kibondo, western Tanzania, Tanzanian Minister for Home Affairs, Hon. Omar Mapuri called on all Burundians to repatriate. He reminded them that Burundians are no longer accepted as prima facie refugee cases, but must undergo individual status determination. Those who cannot justify their claims will be regarded as illegal immigrants. A total of 2,524 refugees repatriated to Burundi in January. This is similar to the figures for the previous three months.
- (b) A total of 400,920 beneficiaries received over 1,100 tons of food through general distribution, supplementary feeding and through therapeutic feeding activities in refugee camps in western Tanzania. Some 13,000 Tanzanians in the host communities surrounding the camps were supported with WFP host community activities, including Food-for-Work, Food-for-Training, Food-for-Hospitals and school feeding. In partnership with NGOs, WFP also continued to support refugee self reliance activities, including vegetable gardening and sunflower oil /groundnut sharecropping.
- (c) No new contributions were confirmed. The PRRO faces serious shortfalls of corn-soya -blend, vegetable oil and salt for the coming six months. A new ration modification took effect on 15 February, providing refugees with just 1,323 Kcals per day (i.e. 65.1 percent of the normal ration level). Rations of some commodities will increase from 14 March; however, a return to normal levels is not expected until at least mid-June.

(10) Uganda

- (a) On Wednesday 16 February, the Lord's Resistance Army chief spokesman, Brig. Sam Kolo, who had led the LRA team to failed peace talks in December 2004, surrendered to the Uganda People's Defense Forces (UPDF). Following the Government's announcement of an 18-day cease-fire in a limited area of northern Uganda two weeks ago (to allow the LRA leadership to resume consultations with the chief peace mediator, Ms. Betty Bigombe), no definite date has been set for the negotiating teams to meet. The cease-fire will expire on Tuesday 22 February.
- (b) Continuing Lord's Resistance Army (LRA) hostilities against the civilian population raise concerns that a cessation of hostilities agreement may not be finalized by the deadline, which will result in an all out military offensive against the rebels. It is apparent that there is presently a split within the LRA leadership between one faction that favours peace talks and another that does not.
- (c) Following an influx of refugees fleeing civil strife in eastern DRC into western Uganda in January, UNHCR has to date transferred about 4,040 refugees from Ishasha in Kanungu district and Nkondo in Hoima district to Kyaka II refugee settlement in Kyenjojo district. WFP continues to provide the new arrivals with food assistance.
- (d) WFP food distribution continues to reach 1.4 million displaced persons, 192,000 refugees and other vulnerable persons. During the period from 5 to 12 February, WFP distributed some 3,620 tons of relief food assistance to about 370,300 persons including IDPs sheltering in camps in Gulu, Kitgum, Pader and Lira districts, refugees,

children in nutrition centres and other vulnerable persons.

- (e) WFP began distributing relief food assistance to drought-affected agro-pastoralists in the Karamoja region, bordering Turkana in Kenya, last week. The drought relief assistance is planned to continue until the next harvest in September 2005, and will assist 560,000 persons during the peak of the hungry season from April through July 2005.
- (f) WFP faces a shortfall of about 82,075 tons 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 September this year. Unless new contributions are confirmed urgently, WFP will run out of commodities in May and the nutritional status of 1.4 million displaced persons in northern Uganda, mostly women and children, will be jeopardized.

(C) West Africa: (1) Chad (2) Cote d'Ivoire (3) Liberia

(1) Chad

- (a) UNCHR reported that there have been no major population movements into eastern Chad in the past few weeks. Refugee population movements are mainly between camps or from border sites. A number of minor security incidents that were reported during the past week indicate a potential rise in tension between refugees and host communities. The causes of such incidents are mainly due to scarce resources, such as firewood, water and pastureland.
- (b) Reports of increased robberies and assaults against international staff in N'Djamena are causing concern within the humanitarian community. International staff is requested to be extremely careful.
- (c) The caseload reported by UNHCR remains unchanged and stands at some 213,315 refugees registered in camps. This figure may however change, following the results of the joint UNHCR/WFP/partners registration/screening currently underway in northern camps. Preliminary results indicate a reduction of about 15 percent in family size following the withdrawal of double ration cards. The exercise is set to continue in central camps around 21-24 March, and will thereafter proceed in southern camps. The first phase of the exercise will determine the number of people living inside the camps, and the second phase aims to establish new identity and ration cards for refugees.
- (d) WFP, UNHCR and partners agreed to conduct February distributions on the basis of a 30-day normal ration for all commodities, except cereals, which will be distributed on a 15-day ration, based on delivery through the Libyan corridor. Refugees have been sensitised accordingly.
- (e) Distributions have commenced in southern camps (Djabal and Goz Amir) and in Bahai. Distributions in central and northern camps are scheduled to commence on 17 February.
- (f) Under the Blanket Supplementary Feeding programme, implementing partner ACTED distributed some 30 tons of food to over 6,690 beneficiaries in Bahai. In addition, WFP is preparing for the distribution of blanket supplementary feeding rations to approximately 2,000 beneficiaries from the local Chadian population around Treguine camp.
- (g) For the period from 1 to 15 February, WFP-Humanitarian Air Services transported 167 passengers and delivered some 1.4 tons of medical supplies.

(2) Cote d'Ivoire

- (a) On 12 February, the Forces Nouvelles denied allegations that they were preparing for

renewed conflicted after announcing they were boosting their presence along the confidence zone.

- (b) The French Defence Minister, Michele Alliot-Marie, has announced that French troops will remain in Cote d'Ivoire until April 2005, after which it would be up to the United Nations, the African Union and Government of Cote d'Ivoire to determine whether they should extend their stay.
- (c) UNAIDS in Cote d'Ivoire has expressed concern about the effects of the war on rates of HIV/AIDS. Insecurity has disrupted efforts to open new centres, decentralise treatment and train personnel. Cote d'Ivoire is believed to have the highest prevalence rate in West Africa.
- (d) As schools are slowly opening in the north with the help of volunteer teachers and administrators, WFP has started distributions for school feeding and Food-for-Work for volunteer teachers. In 2005, WFP plans to reach 200,000 students in the north and 265,000 students in the south.
- (e) From 9 to 15 February, a total of over 360 tons of various food commodities were distributed to about 23,920 people. The funding level for this operation, covering the Côte d'Ivoire crisis and its regional implications is very low, at 9 percent of the total budget, as compared to last year when the operation was funded at 43 percent by February. The pipeline situation for cereals is particularly worrisome, and will severely handicap WFP preparedness as well as projects to support poor farmers during the planting season and people at risk in the lean season.

(3) Liberia

- (a) The security situation in Liberia remains generally unpredictable. However, during the past week signs of stability were noted. The incessant demonstrations eased a little with the announcement that the UNDP Trust Fund had secured some funding for the payment of the school fees arrears for the ex-combatants to resume school. Security phases for 10 of Liberia's 15 counties were downgraded from phase IV to III.
- (b) More than 55,000 IDPs and Liberian refugees have been repatriated and reintegrated since the beginning of the exercises last year. WFP has supported the effort with 1,870 tons of wet and dry rations. During the past week, food was distributed to some 150 new returnees that arrived from Sierra Leone, Guinea and Libya. A second trench was provided to refugees that arrived two months ago, and also the ongoing return and reintegration of IDP's was supported. Furthermore, during the second week of February, this month's general food distribution was completed in 12 IDP camps. WFP continues to be on guard for anticipated increasing tension in IDP camps.
- (c) WFP's School Feeding Programme is being extended to Lofa County, one of the hardest hit counties by the 2003 wars. Approximately 220,000 returnees, refugees and IDPs are anticipated to resettle in the county.
- (d) Between January 23 and February 3, WFP led a collaborative Food Security and Nutrition Survey in partnership with Ministries of Planning and Health and Social Works, UNICEF, International Medical Corps, and Action Contre la Faim in Lofa County. Preliminary findings indicate a low Global Acute Malnutrition rate of 2.5 percent and Severe Acute Malnutrition of 0.4 percent. A limited functioning of basic services and infrastructure was reported. Little farm produce appeared to have been realized in the previous season, posing a real food security threat to the returning population
- (e) Continuous pipeline breaks are expected from May onwards unless new contributions are received. To avert food shortfalls and make loan repayments, USD 16 million is needed through June of this year.

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

(1) Regional

- (a) Dry conditions have been observed in southern Mozambique, southern Malawi, and southeastern Zimbabwe, hampering prospects of a good harvest.
- (b) In South Africa, open market prices for white maize are currently at their lowest levels in dollar terms since late 2000. This reflects generally good prospects for the 2005 crop that will be harvested in April. together with anticipated high year end (30 April) inventories.
- (c) The regional Protracted Relief and Recovery Operation (PRRO) 10310, Assistance to Populations in Southern Africa Vulnerable to Food Insecurity and the Impact of AIDS, to date has received USD 37.5 million against USD 216 million required for 2005. The regional PRRO aims to help up to 4.3 million people vulnerable to food insecurity and HIV/AIDS in Lesotho, Malawi, Mozambique, Swaziland, Zambia and Zimbabwe.

(2) Angola

- (a) Eastern Benguela province authorities reported that in the first week of February, some 3,800 people living in Bairro Kalombutao town lost their homes and belongings in heavy rainfall. Angolan authorities are providing 10 kg of maize meal and 3 kg of dried fish to the affected households. In addition, WFP will implement Food-for-Work activities to reconstruct destroyed homes in the province.
- (b) WFP's School feeding programme for 2005 began on 9 February. About 45,000 children in six Benguela municipalities will be provided with food in 2005. This number is 10,000 more than the caseload for 2004. Similar programmes are expected to be extended to the central Bié, Huambo and Kuanza Sul provinces in the near future.
- (c) PRRO 10054.2, Support to Return and Resettlement, urgently requires about USD 40 million, equivalent to 60,000 tons of food for distribution to returnees through 2005. Immediate new contributions will help avoid distribution cuts beginning in April.

(3) Lesotho

- (a) As the hunger season progresses, the number of beneficiaries reached this week increased by 34 percent compared to the previous week. From 9 to 15 February, WFP distributed 1,200 tons of food to 200,000 vulnerable people, including households affected by HIV/AIDS.
- (b) Crop failure is anticipated in Mafeteng, in the southern part of the country, due to a combination of below normal rainfall, hailstorms and degraded soils. The Ministry of Agriculture has been allocated the equivalent of USD 29 million under the 2005/6 budget announced this week. The allocation is expected to support appropriate agricultural systems including crop diversification and substitution; agro-ecologically suitable crops; commercialization of agriculture; and improved agricultural technologies.

(4) Madagascar

- (a) The southwest coast of Madagascar is still recovering from the shocks of cyclone Ernest and tropical storm Filapi that hit in January. A rapid assessment conducted jointly by the Government of Madagascar/UN/NGOs identified about 13,000 affected people requiring assistance in Tulear city and the villages of Androka and Itampolo. Further assessments are still ongoing in the rural areas around Tulear.
- (b) WFP's intervention provided some 5,200 affected people with 53, 000 tons of rice in the

city of Tulear. Another 60 tons of food is currently being distributed in Itampolo and Androka villages. WFP plans to set up Food-for-Work activities to rehabilitate infrastructure.

(5) Malawi

- (a) An inter-ministerial meeting, consisting of the Ministry of Agriculture, Department of Poverty and Disaster Management Affairs and the Department of Meteorological Services, has reviewed the Government's contingency plans ahead of expected 2005 crop failure in southern Malawi. WFP is closely monitoring the food insecurity and early warning signals.
- (b) In the month of January, WFP distributed nearly 12,500 tons of food under the Malawi component of regional PRRO 10310, to 1.2 million people, including those affected by drought in early 2004. Subject to resources being available, it is planned to increase this distribution to more than 17,000 tons to 1.3 million beneficiaries in February and March.
- (c) A joint mission of the UN Regional Support Team (RST) undertook a working mission to Malawi to assist the UN Country Team to develop the HIV/AIDS sector- UN Implementation Support Plan (ISP). A UN Development Assistance Framework HIV/AIDS results matrix was drafted to guide the joint implementation of priority components of the Malawi National AIDS Framework (NAF).

(6) Mozambique

- (a) The Ministry of Agriculture is reviewing the impact on national crop production of heavy rainfall received in the north and inadequate and erratic rains in the southern parts of Gaza and Inhambane provinces. The dry spells experienced from mid-December to mid-January have raised concern as some areas have gone for almost 30 days without any effective rains. In Sofala province it is estimated that 200 hectares of crops are flooded.

(7) Swaziland

- (a) WFP food aid monitors reported some wilting of the maize crop in the Lowveld, due to dry weather. The government supplied farmers in the Middleveld and Lowveld with seed, fertilizer and tillage to replant beans in 2,700 hectares of maize fields destroyed by the recent hailstorms.
- (b) A field visit to WFP school feeding, targeted food distribution and neighbourhood care points projects is planned from 24 to 25 February. The field visit is aimed at providing the donor community with first-hand information on food insecurity and vulnerability in the countryside following the recent storms and dry spell.

(8) Zambia

- (a) Normal seasonal conditions continue to prevail in Zambia, which if continued will result in a crop similar to the good one in 2004. Excessive rainfall in eastern Zambia has led to flooding in the valley areas and is likely to result in localised damage to crops.
- (b) Resources are urgently needed to meet the increased needs of people living with HIV/AIDS and other chronic illnesses. The Nutrition Programme for Vulnerable Groups (NPVG) beneficiaries increased by over four times since last year. WFP needs 3,000 tons of food comprising maize, pulses, vegetable oil, and high-energy protein supplements to cover requirements until June 2005.
- (c) The WFP refugee operation PRRO 10071.1, Food Assistance for Refugees from Angola and Democratic Republic of Congo, urgently requires USD 4.5 million to provide

full rations of food to approximately 86,000 refugees through to December 2005.

(9) Zimbabwe

- (a) According to WFP and the Famine Early Warning Systems Network (FEWS-Net), concern about poor household access to food remains. Availability of the staple food, maize, remains poor in the grain-deficit areas of the country. This has resulted in high price levels that are beyond the reach of many of the poorer and most vulnerable households in both rural and urban areas. The most affected provinces include Manicaland, Masvingo and Matebeleland (North and South).
- (b) Parliamentary elections will be held on March 31 at the end of the hunger season. In the past, food distribution around election time was hindered by political activities.
- (c) On 16 February, the International Monetary Fund (IMF) postponed for six months a proposal to expel Zimbabwe from the body. Zimbabwe has fallen behind in payments on more than USD 300 million in debt since 2001. The IMF noted that the country had made some progress toward meeting its obligations and stabilising its economy. The latest reported annual inflation is 133.6 percent from a high 600 percent in March of 2004.
- (d) In the month of January, WFP distributed nearly 2,300 tons of food to 970,000 people in Zimbabwe.

(E) Asia: (1) Bangladesh (2) India (3) Indonesia (4) Korea (DPR) (5) Maldives (6) Myanmar (7) Sri Lanka

(1) Bangladesh

- (a) In Bangladesh, the prices of staple foods (rice and wheat flour) remain above normal for this time of year. The Government has directed selling of rice in limited amounts in the open market in order to stabilize the price.
- (b) Replenishment of rice that WFP Bangladesh had loaned to the Tsunami operation is likely to take place by mid March, which may be too late for Food-for-Work activities under EMOP 10380, Assistance to Flood Affected People in Bangladesh, in light of the onset of monsoon rains.
- (c) The focus on the Rural Livelihoods and Infrastructure Rehabilitation component of the EMOP has been switched to Vulnerable Group Rehabilitation general food distribution. WFP will arrange another round of general food distribution, covering the lean season in April-May of this year. Targeted districts will be identified through a WFP Vulnerability Assessment Mapping analysis.
- (d) Resourcing levels remain grossly inadequate with only 38 percent of the original estimate having been met. With donor attention now focused squarely on both Tsunami and Darfur operations, additional contributions appear increasingly unlikely.

(2) India

- (a) TNT have delivered the entire quantity of 300 tons of biscuits to Chennai and to the district headquarters of the affected areas. About 280 tons of this food has been moved to the districts for onward transportation and distribution to the ultimate beneficiaries.
- (b) Of the 50 tons of biscuits allocated to the Andaman and Nicobar Islands, some 5.5 tons have been airlifted. The distribution will be organized by UNICEF.

(3) Indonesia

- (a) Assistance to Tsunami affected people:

- (b) Aftershocks are still rattling Indonesia's tsunami-devastated Aceh province.
- (c) A suspected outbreak of food poisoning has hit tsunami survivors in an IDP camp. Approximately 200 people were taken to hospital after eating what they thought to be spoiled noodles, which were not from WFP or its implementing partners.
- (d) The Government of Indonesia has requested WFP to assume full responsibility for feeding of displaced persons in Aceh and North Sumatra. WFP has provisions for 790,000 beneficiaries in this area through June.
- (e) WFP and the Indonesian Red Cross (PMI) signed an umbrella agreement on 15 February. Food distributions have already begun in Aceh Seletan, which has a caseload of 40,000 beneficiaries.
- (f) Mercy Corps is currently distributing WFP food in a sub-district of Selimeum to 1,892 beneficiaries; and in Kota Jantho to 3,985 beneficiaries. Save the Children is in the process of distributing food to 1,697 beneficiaries in Kuta Alam; and to 3,503 beneficiaries in Syah Kuala. CARE is distributing food to 3,761 beneficiaries in Lhoknga. Over the period from 1 to 15 February, CARE distributed some 145 tons of food to 22,434 beneficiaries on Simeulue Island.
- (g) Together with its cooperating partners (CP), WFP is discussing operational implications of the Government of Indonesia's plan to start distribution in temporary reallocation centres starting 1 March.
- (h) The report of WFP's Emergency Food Security Assessment Mission was released on 16 February. The mission, who had visited 18 locations in 8 affected districts in Aceh province, estimates that 790,000 persons will require food assistance over the next several months. The team recommends a full food ration for 700,000 internally displaced persons, 60,000 persons who have suffered disrupted livelihoods and 30,000 persons living in isolated areas along the western coast. It also proposes the initiation of activities such as supplementary feeding for vulnerable groups and recovery activities, such as school feeding, Food-for-Work, Food-for-Training and institutional feeding for orphans.
- (i) Preparations are underway for WFP's Nutrition Surveillance Survey which will start in 13 districts on 21 February, are underway.
- (j) This week, the Department of Education appointed a focal point for school feeding at the province level in Aceh. A district-level meeting was held on 17 February regarding WFP's support to educational programmes.
- (k) WFP signed contracts with three local transportation companies taking over from TNT. The TNT assistance extended to WFP from the early days of the emergency operation has been fundamental to the success of the tsunami response.
- (l) The WFP UN Humanitarian Air Services Twin Otter Aircraft currently based in Medan made its first flight today. The aircraft will provide humanitarian passenger flight service between Medan, Meulaboh and Banda Aceh. WFP was also requested to provide helicopter transportation to a delegation including Indonesia's Minister of Social Affairs, for their visit to WFP operations.
- (m) Former US Presidents Clinton and Bush are scheduled to arrive in Indonesia on 20 February as part of their visit to tsunami-hit countries in South and South-East Asia.
- (n) OTHER assistance:
- (o) In view of the improved security situation in West Timor, the security phase was downgraded from Phase IV to III.
- (p) WFP and the Ministry of Agriculture are making preparations for a joint launch in March of the recently finalized Food Insecurity Atlas (FIA).
- (q) In January, apart from the assistance provided to tsunami victims, approximately

844,905 beneficiaries received WFP food assistance, amounting to 3,550 tons as indicated below. The reduced beneficiary number reflects the phase out of the subsidized rice program in parts of Greater Jakarta effective end of last year.

- (r) WFP and implementing partners are updating beneficiaries for the Nutrition Rehabilitation Programme, and from March onwards, some 300,000 school children and children under 5 as well as 50,000 Pregnant Women and Lactating Mothers will be benefiting.
- (s) Preparations are also ongoing to assist more patients under the Tuberculosis programme in expansion areas in Jabotabek, East Java and NTT, covering an estimated 14,000 patients.
- (t) A total of 67 Community Development Projects (CDP) have been completed since the start of the CDP program in December 2002, and 77 projects are on-going. The focus of the projects is mainly on rehabilitation of water and sanitation, community centers as well as public libraries.
- (u) Church World Service distributed about 603 tons of rice to 48,265 beneficiaries who participated in Food for-Work/Food-for-Training/Food-for-Peace activities in Central Sulawesi.
- (v) A recently opened WFP sub-office in Kupang in West Timor is making preparations for expanding Food for Work and nutritional rehabilitation activities. A Japanese mission met with local authorities in and NGO's in West Timor in order to assess community livelihood conditions. CARE distributed 13.65 tons of rice to 273 Food-for-Work/Food-for-Training participants (benefiting 1,575 persons).

(4) Korea (DPR)

- (a) This month, WFP is again able to provide all 6.5 million targeted beneficiaries with cereal rations. Substantive new pledges will allow WFP to uphold this support through May 2005, with the exception of oil that has run out this month for some beneficiaries due to delayed arrivals.
- (b) The Government has officially declared Kowon county in South Hamgyong Province inaccessible to WFP for monitoring. In accordance with WFP's strict 'no access-no food' policy, all food distributions to the county will therefore be suspended. Even though Chagang Province, Sinchon county (South Hwanghae) and Kangdong district in Pyongyang also remain closed, WFP monitoring access is still high: 151 out of 203 counties/districts, covering over 80 per cent of the country's population.
- (c) To sustain the production of biscuits and blended foods in WFP's 18 operating Local Food Production factories, new donations of milk powder and soybeans are urgently needed. The current stock of dried skimmed milk will be depleted in May and of soy beans in April this year.

(5) Maldives

- (a) It was decided that Maldives' Ministry of Gender and Social Security will be the responsible body for reconstruction and recovery activities in the country. WFP's activities should not be affected by the management change, and focal points are to remain.
- (b) WFP is awaiting feedback from the Government of Maldives (GOM) with regard to the joint Letter of Understanding and the official start date for the targeted food distribution programme. The agreement outlines phase two of WFP's operation in the Maldives to distribute targeted food assistance to 42,000 vulnerable people.
- (c) The school feeding programme has distributed approximately 36.5 tons of fortified biscuits to 24,000 school children.

(6) Myanmar

- (a) According to World Vision (WV), 3,600 tsunami-affected beneficiaries have been reached through relief food distributions in Kaw Thaug township of Tanintharyi division. WV and district authorities have identified an additional caseload of 1,600 to whom they are contemplating providing food assistance. World Vision has begun a second cycle of food distribution in the township; almost 20 tons are being distributed to 1,500 beneficiaries.
- (b) WFP Cooperating Partner ADRA has increased its staff in Laputta Township to carry out Food-for-Work activities in affected areas. Food is being carried out with the help of the local administrative body and village leaders.

(7) Sri Lanka

- (a) A number of incidents took place in the Jaffna district by cadres of the LTTE intended to provoke the Sri Lankan Army (SLA) into opening fire. The SLA did not react. Some 75 Buddhist monks protested in front of the UN compound against the UN Secretary General's condolence message regarding the death of a senior LTTE member and six other persons on 8 February. No memorandum was handed over and the monks disappeared peacefully.
- (b) The Sri Lankan Government announced a ban on rice imports, which could seriously affect the pipeline from March on. Negotiations with on the issue, between WFP and the Government, have begun.
- (c) The issuance of food coupons has sped up significantly. Authorities are now expecting to complete the issuance of coupons in a week. Once this system is in place, beneficiaries will only receive food through presentation of the coupons.
- (d) The second cycle of 15-day food distributions have been completed in Mullaithivu and Kilinochchi districts in the north. The third cycle is now underway in both districts. In Trincomalee district, WFP and World Vision have begun implementation plans for the supplementary feeding of school-going children aged 5 to 10. WFP in that district also agreed with the Tamil Rehabilitation Organisation and ZOA, a refugee-focused NGO, that WFP will become the primary source of food aid in areas traditionally supported by those two organizations. They will, however, cover any food gaps not filled by WFP.

(F) Latin America and Caribbean: (1) Guyana floods (2) Bolivia (3) Colombia (4) Guatemala (5) Haiti (6) Nicaragua

(1) Guyana floods

- (a) The President of Brazil, Mr. Luiz Ignacio Lula da Silva, visited Guyana from 14 to 15 February to forge closer alliances with Guyana. Since the visit came in the aftermath of the devastating floods in the East Coast communities, discussions were also centered on the problems that have arisen as a result of the natural disaster.
- (b) Distribution of emergency food rations to targeted communities in the East Coast started on 15 February. Cooperating partners loaded trucks with family rations containing wheat flour, rice, vegetable oil, canned tuna, beans and high energy biscuits to be distributed to the first 1,856 families.
- (c) The Ministry of Health has invited WFP to participate in a nutrition task group, created to launch nutritional interventions for pregnant and lactating women and children under two in the affected areas of the East Coast. The program will be an extension of the government's current Basic Nutrition Program that assists approximately 10,000 children in poor communities in Guyana.

(2) Bolivia

- (a) President Mesa's third cabinet shuffle resulted in the change of seven ministers and the division of the Mining and Hydrocarbons Ministry in two, creating a 16th ministry. For the first time in Bolivian history, four women are part of the cabinet.
- (b) Heavy rains have prompted the Mayor of La Paz to declare "orange alert" in the city, which means 'emergency caused by moderated accidents'.
- (c) A new road blockade is taking place in the tropical region of Yapacani, near Santa Cruz. Blockers threaten to extend their protest to as far as Camiri and the Argentinean border.
- (d) WFP distributed 209,580 food rations to families affected by the drought in El Chaco region, benefiting over 4,935 families in the Department of Santa Cruz and some 2,050 in the Department of Chuquisaca. Effective the beginning of March, EMOP assistance will be extended to the Department of Tarija.

(3) Colombia

- (a) Strong weather conditions and floods killed at least 33 people and destroyed more than 6,000 homes, affecting 40,000 people in the provinces of Santander and Norte de Santander, particularly the municipality of Giron. The Colombian Government provided emergency aid to the affected families, currently housed in temporary shelters.
- (b) WFP's food aid activities in Giron were affected by the floods. WFP will deliver over 35 tons of emergency food aid in the upcoming days, assisting about 2,900 people.
- (c) Clashes between illegal armed groups and the Colombian army were ongoing in the country. A recent heavy clash in northwest Colombia killed at least 19 soldiers and 11 rebels in the Municipality of Condoto. Additionally, 7 persons in the municipality of San Carlos (Province of Antioquia), where WFP carries out activities, were killed by members of an illegal armed group. Clashes in the province of Choco, coupled with food blockades, may cause new displacements. WFP Colombia will deliver 21,360 food rations for approximately 100 families (456 people) affected by this situation.

(4) Guatemala

- (a) The volcanic activity of Fuego, Pacaya, and Santiaguito volcanoes is still within normal range and does not yet call for evacuations of nearby residents. An alert was launched to all governmental institutions to support the Forest Fire Prevention Plan, after reportedly more than 220 hectares had been burned in 21 different sites.
- (b) Guatemala's Constitutional Court denied the payment to the ex civil self-defense patrols (ex-PAC) for the third time. The President reiterated to the ex-PAC the alternative of undertaking income-generating projects.
- (c) During the past week, national and private hospitals and health centers reported an outbreak of rotavirus affecting nearly 400 children. Daycare centres and schools are carrying extreme precautions to avoid the spread of the rotavirus.
- (d) The Guatemala component of regional PRRO 10212.0 will face shortfalls of maize and vegetable oil by May and June 2005 respectively. Due to the projected shortfalls, children under five years of age suffering from acute malnutrition will not be able to improve their nutritional status.

(5) Haiti

- (a) The entire country continues in UN security phase III. Common crime and political violence continue to be reported throughout the country. On 14 February, a MINUSTAH

CIVPOL team was appointed to investigate and coordinate actions to recover the two stolen WFP vehicles.

- (b) During the past week, deliveries from Port-au-Prince container-terminals resumed, as well as operations in one of the warehouses, whereas the other two warehouses underwent further commodity fumigation. The total food stocks in the country are estimated at some 6,725 tons of which over 3,205 tons are in WFP warehouses and available for distribution while over 3,520 tons remain at the port. Efforts are being made to improve the delivery rate.
- (c) Some 295 tons of WFP food commodities were distributed by implementing partner CARE to 5,510 beneficiaries affected by the floods in Gonaïves. Distributions were carried out at 1-2 sites per day. Another 515 tons of food were delivered to health centres and schools (under WFP's Emergency Operation (EMOP) and Country Programme) in the West, North and Northeast Departments and to the various implementing partners of Protracted Relief and Recovery Operation (PRRO) activities in the Northwest and in Port-au-Prince.
- (d) A series of recommendations made by a project design mission composed of CIDA, FAO, and WFP are currently being incorporated into a new PRRO for Haiti.

(6) Nicaragua

- (a) The National Teacher's Association (ANDEN) declared that their current strike will be enforced due to lack of attention to the expressed demands. The Minister of Education declared his office unable to meet these demands and referred ANDEN to the Ministry of Finance and the International Monetary Fund.
- (b) WFP's school feeding programme has not started due to the teachers' strike. Food commodities under PRRO 10212.0 had already been pre-positioned to start distributions to vulnerable women and children and school boys and girls. Food-for-Work activities will resume in March 2005.
- (c) The Nicaragua component of regional PRRO 10212.0 will face shortfalls through July of rice, beans and vegetable oil. If no commodities are announced in the coming months, or those that are announced arrive late, this PRRO will face serious pipeline breaks during the second half of 2005.

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

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