

World Food Programme Emergency Report 2005
 Issued Weekly by the United Nations World Food Programme
 Report No. 15 / 2005 - Date 08 April 2005

(A) Highlights

- (B) Middle East, Central Asia and Eastern Europe:** (1) Afghanistan (2) Iraq
- (C) East & Central Africa:** (1) Burundi (2) Congo (3) Congo, DR (4) Djibouti (5) Ethiopia (6) Rwanda (7) Sudan (8) Tanzania (9) Uganda
- (D) West Africa:** (1) Regional (2) Burkina Faso (3) Chad (4) Cote d'Ivoire (5) Ghana (6) Guinea (7) Liberia (8) Mali
- (E) Southern Africa:** (1) Regional (2) Angola (3) Lesotho (4) Madagascar (5) Malawi (6) Namibia (7) Swaziland (8) Zambia (9) Zimbabwe
- (F) Asia:** (1) Indonesia (2) Korea (DPR) (3) Laos (4) Myanmar (5) Sri Lanka
- (G) Latin America and Caribbean:** (1) Bolivia (2) Colombia (3) Cuba (4) Guatemala (5) Haiti (6) Nicaragua (7) Peru

(A) Highlights

- (a) The planned beneficiary caseload for WFP's tsunami response in Indonesia, for the month of April, increased to 720,000 people, including people affected by the earthquake that struck North Sumatra on 28 March.
- (b) WFP in March dispatched 52,000 tons of food to distribution points within Sudan's Darfur region: the highest amount since the start of the operation in April 2004.
- (c) Shortage of funding forces WFP to cut half of the non-cereal part of daily food rations for one million people in Darfur.
- (d) WFP has distributed a one-month food ration to several thousand of the victims of the explosions which occurred in Juba town, southern Sudan, a few weeks ago.
- (e) Some 25,000 persons have been identified as in urgent need of food assistance by a joint WFP/FEWS-Net/Government of Djibouti assessment mission.
- (f) WFP is providing high energy biscuits and a one-month general ration to people affected by recent violence near Cote d'Ivoire's buffer zone.
- (g) From 1 April WFP expanded its relief and recovery activities in Uganda; now targeting 2.6 million IDPs, refugees and other vulnerable groups.
- (h) WFP is concerned about a potential humanitarian disaster in some Colombia's Bojaya area, and provided emergency food assistance to people that became displaced due to violence in that and other areas.

(B) Middle East, Central Asia and Eastern Europe: (1) Afghanistan (2) Iraq**(1) Afghanistan**

- (a) The security situation remained relatively calm in most of the country. The exception was in the south and southeast, where some security incidents threatened humanitarian work.
- (b) From 31 March to 6 April, WFP assisted 341,500 beneficiaries.
- (c) Through recently completed Food-For-Work projects, some 20 km of canals in Dand

district of Kandahar and eight km of roads in Delaram district of Nimroz were rehabilitated. The rebuilding of these communal infrastructures contributes to increased agricultural production and enhances access to local markets

- (d) On 4 April, a commercial truck carrying WFP food plunged into a river in a valley near Kishim district of Badakhshan province, causing injury to the driver. The truck was delivering oil to Fayz Abad. Recent snow and rainfall have damaged roads, particularly in remote areas of the country, hampering food aid deliveries to vulnerable populations.
- (e) UN and partners' joint efforts continued to assist the flood and winter affected people. WFP provided 50 tons of mixed food for distribution to 5,400 flood affected people in Ghazni and 66 tons for 3,540 winter affected people in Kharwar district of Logar and Chak district of Wardak. In Khost, 50 tons of food is pre-positioned for potential floods, while another 50 tons will soon arrive in Paktya.
- (f) Furthermore, over 6,000 people in Hilmand, Kandahar, Nimroz and Zabul provinces who were affected by floods and winter conditions have received WFP food assistance.
- (g) In Farah, 25 tons of food were distributed to 780 flood affected families. The Provincial Disaster Emergency Task Force carried out an assessment of flood damage in the area and requested immediate assistance for 4,500 families. WFP, in collaboration with other UN agencies, has accelerated efforts to meet food needs of the affected households. Initial reports indicate that floods have caused damage to several villages in the central Ghor province. WFP has pre-positioned food in the area and will start distribution once a comprehensive assessment of the situation has been fully completed.

(2) Iraq

- (a) The Public Distribution System's (PDS) March distribution has been completed in most governorates, though some governorates are still distributing the February ration.
- (b) Available information indicates that there are significant country-wide shortfalls in rice, sugar and milk and infant formula. Some governorates continue to report serious shortfalls of nearly every PDS commodity.
- (c) The frequent periods of border closure continue to create bottle-necks at border crossings which, in turn, slow down the rate at which food can be imported overland into Iraq. Nevertheless, Some 865 tons of pea/wheat blend, which will be used for vulnerable group feeding, has been dispatched into Iraq after delays at the Syrian border. In addition, approximately 1000 tons of high energy biscuits have been dispatched from Syria to destinations in Iraq, including Baghdad, Ninewa and Tameen. Thus far, distribution has taken place in Baghdad and Mosul, and the biscuits have been well received by students and teachers. Students of the schools where the distribution is taking place will be eligible to submit drawings for a worldwide WFP drawing contest among schools who receive WFP's Food for Education support.
- (d) An agreement was finalized between WFP and the Iraqi Central Office for Statistics and Information Technology (COSIT) on the follow-up report to last year's Baseline Food Security Analysis. WFP will also work with COSIT to build institutional capacities for monitoring food security and to improve the quality, effectiveness and efficiency of interventions related to food security in Iraq. Activities are expected to commence in May.

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

(1) Burundi

- (a) Refugees at Gihinga camp in Mwaro province refused to allow an aid worker from the

Norwegian Refugee Council to leave the camp. After some time, her departure was facilitated by UN peacekeeping troops. Unfortunately, during the rescue of the aid worker and her vehicle, an incident occurred and one refugee was shot dead and three other persons wounded. Following this incident the Joint Assessment Mission (JAM) of the refugee operations in Burundi by WFP and UNHCR, with the support of partners and donors, which had been planned for this week, has been postponed until further notice. Several human rights abuses, including targeted killings of civilians, were reportedly committed by the Front for National Liberation (FNL) rebels in Bujumbura Rural province.

- (b) A meeting of the population of Kiremba commune with the authorities of the Ngozi province suggested that the flight of some members of the population from the northern provinces to either Rwanda or the eastern provinces of Burundi was mainly due to rumours of threats and intimidations. Considering the insecure environment, WFP has temporarily suspended distributions in that commune.
- (c) During the past week, WFP distributed a total of over 1,395 tons of food aid to nearly 152,000 beneficiaries through different project activities. The Seeds Protection Rations (SPR) for the 2005B harvest has been completed. Preliminary information indicates that 159,150 households have been assisted with 6,520 tons of food.
- (d) WFP has started a review of the beneficiary caseloads that have been benefiting from targeted distributions, with a view of assisting some of them through more productive Food-For-Work (FFW) activities. The caseload for emergency targeted distributions will therefore be reduced, to prioritise FFW activities.
- (e) A joint monitoring mission by FAO and WFP in three communes of Ngozi and Karuzi provinces, to review the impact of the seeds and the SPR, reported that the operation has enabled numerous farmers to sow effectively. However, in one area of Karuzi province, the seeds distributed were not of good quality and farmers did not plant them.
- (f) Food pipeline shortages or temporary breaks are anticipated in May (cereals), July (pulses, oil and salt) and from August onwards for all food commodities.

(2) Congo

- (a) A train accident near the Mayombe forest on 25 March, which was reportedly caused by the defective condition of the railway line, caused the death of 7 seven persons and injured 15 others.
- (b) WFP carried out a mission in the Pool and Plateaux regions during the period 27 March - 2 April. The mission aimed at meeting the local communities, informing them on the objectives of school gardens and selecting appropriate cultivation areas for implementation. The project has been initiated in collaboration with FAO on a pilot basis. Six schools implementing school feeding activities were initially identified, including four in the Pool region and two in the Plateaux region.

(3) Congo, DR

- (a) The disarmament of militiamen in eastern DRC seems to have gained a new momentum. According to the UN Mission in the Democratic Republic of Congo's (MONUC) over 9,000 militiamen from five of the six active militia groups in Ituri voluntarily surrendered their weapons to MONUC and joined the demobilization programme. On 31 March, a press release from MONUC indicated that civilian and military leaders of Rwandan armed groups in the DRC territory (Forces Démocratiques de Libération du Rwanda - FDLR) had issued a statement which expressed their intention to stop their armed struggle and willingness to lay down their weapons and join the Disarmament, Demobilization, Repatriation, Resettlement and Reintegration

(DDRRR) programme. However, the reported progress was somewhat marred by the continuing insecurity in the northeastern areas of Goma such as Rutshuru. High levels of insecurity including reports of sporadic fighting have hindered the implementation of humanitarian activities.

- (b) In the South Kivu province, the gathering of over 6,000 troops from the DRC's regular army for demobilization purposes has been raising concern among some humanitarian organizations. Parked in a demobilization camp in the Ruzizi plain, the troops were left without adequate supplies for their essential needs and supervision. As such, they increasingly represented a potential source of disturbance for the smooth implementation of humanitarian activities, particularly food distribution.
- (c) This week, WFP released over 155 tons of food commodities for targeted beneficiaries, including school feeding projects in Beni and Rutshuru territories, North-Kivu.
- (d) A major activity was the joint MONUC/WFP monitoring/assessment mission linked with the rehabilitation works of the Mudja-Mutaho axis. This communication axis will facilitate the reinstallation of IDPs settled in Goma and Congolese refugees in neighbouring Rwanda. Meanwhile, the growing caseload of returnees from Tanzania to Baraka and Uvira has prompted WFP to revise the plans to meet their food needs. According to UNHCR/Uvira, 5,400 returnees from Tanzania and living in transit camps in Baraka and Uvira are waiting for reinstallation.
- (e) In the Oriental province, WFP could not proceed with the planned food distribution activities in Ubundu, due to the tense atmosphere which has been caused by some militiamen who have been demanding their salaries and promotion in the DRC regular army. In Kisangani, the capital city of Oriental province located at 125km from Ubundu, WFP released 97 tons of food for distribution to 24,375 beneficiaries, including pupils enrolled in school feeding projects, malnourished children and people participating in Food-For-Work (FFW) activities.

(4) Djibouti

- (a) Some 25,000 persons have been identified as in need of urgent food assistance by a joint WFP-FEWS Net-Government of Djibouti assessment mission conducted from 21 to 25 March. The situation is caused by absence of seasonal rains, which has led to a significant decrease in milk production, a fall in livestock prices and an increase in staple food prices. Future prospects for the food security situation are very alarming, as the Sougoum/Diraac seasonal rains (March – April 2005) have been below the expected normal levels.
- (b) From 5 to 7 April, a representative from the Regional Bureau of USAID/REDSO Food For Peace (FFP), visited Djibouti, with the aim of assessing the current severe food deficit affecting pastoralists in the Northwest and the Southeast Pastoral Sub-zones.
- (c) Accompanied by WFP and UNHCR, the REDSO/FFP representative also visited the refugee site of Ali Addeh and were briefed by representatives of the two UN agencies on the ongoing repatriation exercise of refugees originating from Somaliland. WFP is supporting the refugees' repatriation by providing a nine-month food repatriation package to those who opt for voluntary return.

(5) Ethiopia

- (a) The government's Disaster Prevention and Preparedness Commission (DPPC) convened a donor consultation on 8 April. The DPPC briefed donors on the current humanitarian concerns and the Food Security Coordination Bureau provided a status report on implementation of the Productive Safety Net Programme. The response to the 2005 Humanitarian Appeal has been weak, both for the food and for the non-food

requirements. However, in the past week there has been a substantial bilateral contribution confirmed to the government's DPPC and WFP and NGOs have received their first contributions of the year.

- (b) This has improved the emergency food aid pipeline, and requirements for April and May can now be covered. For emergency food overall (i.e. for WFP, government and NGOs), confirmed contributions can now meet 57 percent of the 2005 requirements. The coverage is 53 percent for cereals, 71 percent for pulses, 91 percent for vegetable oil and 61 percent for fortified blended food for supplementary feeding. Supplementary feeding includes targeted distributions to malnourished children and women, based on nutritional screening and blanket distributions to particularly vulnerable groups (children under-5, pregnant women and nursing mothers, the sick and the elderly). Cereals can be borrowed from the Ethiopian Emergency Food Security Reserve, but attention must be given to ensure timely repayments.
- (c) With most (80 percent) of the food requirements in the current Humanitarian Appeal being in the first half of the year (i.e. between January and June) the effects of the shortfalls are already evident. It is important that sufficient resources be secured as early as possible to allow pre-positioning of food for the rainy season. Many areas become inaccessible between July and September and therefore food to those areas must be delivered in May or June. The requirements in the Appeal will be updated in July, following the mid-year assessments (the "belg" and "gu" assessments) which are likely to increase overall 2005 requirements by a minimum of 160,000 tons.

(6) Rwanda

- (a) WFP confirmed normal rainfall in Kibuye, Gisenyi, Ruhengeri and Byumba provinces. Beans and sorghum were planted and well established. Many farmers are now engaged in extensive planting of sweet potatoes. Main coping strategies include casual labour or migration in search of it, the sale of animals, petty trade and harvesting of immature sweet potatoes. Schoolchildren are reportedly not attending classes in Cyeru district in Ruhengeri province, due to lack of food.
- (b) During the past week, there was a significant increase in asylum seekers from Congo and Burundi. According to the refugees coming from DRC, Gicanga in north Kivu, there are sporadic attacks against Rwandese Interahamwe militias in the area, which also puts the local population in danger and causes them to flee.
- (c) Gikonko Transit Camp in Butare received 58 Burundian refugees and 6 refugees voluntarily left. An additional 400 new arrivals were registered by UNHCR through Nyamure; however, they have not yet been integrated in the camp. Another 315 Congolese new arrivals were reported at Nkamira camp. The total number of refugees now stands at 51,070 (45,172 Congolese and 5,898 Burundian). A total of 44 tons of food were distributed to 2,455 Congolese asylum seekers in the form of monthly rations.
- (d) The camp in Nyagatare, Cyangugu, is being expanded to accommodate more refugees. Of the 1,000 refugees living in the town, 600 will be transferred into the camp, possibly by next week.
- (e) Over 120 returnees from Congo were received in Nkamira Transit Centre. A three-month ration (6.35 tons) was provided before they were transferred to their places of origin.
- (f) WFP continues to support the nutrition centre established by UNICEF, where 336 children and 108 women receive supplementary rations in Nkamira Transit Camp, Gisenyi province. UNHCR is concerned that this camp might be more affected by malnutrition due to the cut in general refugee food rations in April. A WFP, UNHCR, UNICEF and Médecins Sans Frontières (MSF) mission visited the camp on 6 April to

assess the situation.

- (g) Reduced rations for Food-For-Work activities in all 30 projects continue mostly in the more vulnerable and food insecure areas of Kibuye and Ruhengeri.

(7) Sudan

- (a) DARFUR:
- (b) General insecurity along main access roads into Nyala continues to hamper WFP food deliveries. WFP issued a statement on the increasing attacks and thefts of WFP contracted trucks in Darfur, which reached a crisis point in March. As a pre-emptive measure, WFP requested through the Office of the Special Representative of the Secretary General for the African Union (AU) to increase the frequency of its patrols on roads prone to security incidents. Due to increasing levels of attacks and looting in Kass on the Nyala-Kass-Zalingie roads, UNSECOORD has once again temporarily suspended UN movement as a precautionary measure on this route.
- (c) UNSECOORD completed a security assessment of roads to Um Kadada, Burush, Al Tawisha, Al Liat and Dar Es Salaam in North Darfur on 2 April. The roads have been closed to UN movement for several months. Humanitarian agencies, including WFP, will start conducting joint assessments in these areas once UNSECOORD classifies the roads as 'GO'. An UNSECOORD security assessment also took place across West Darfur and with the exception of two roads, Habila-Geneina and Kongo Harasa-Arara (80 km south of Geneina), all other areas are now accessible.
- (d) While security and stability in North and West Darfur have significantly delayed the registration exercise, by the 3rd of April, headcounts have been completed in 37 percent of the total camps/locations, representing 26 percent of the total previously registered population in all three Darfur states. Area Offices have reported a general improvement in the registration process. WFP plans to complete the exercise by mid-April, taking into account security constraints in March, which delayed the registration process.
- (e) Preliminary results of a nutrition survey conducted by TearFund in Ed Daein indicate that the global acute malnutrition (GAM) rate has increased to 25.2% from 11.9% in October 2004. WFP is working with partners to address this issue.
- (f) Additional trucking capacity by transport companies has had a significant impact on WFP food deliveries into the Darfurs. In March, WFP was able to increase dispatches from El Obeid and Khartoum by almost 70 percent, delivering more than 52,000 tons in March compared to 30,620 tons in February. WFP dispatched 29,210 tons of food from the three Darfur states to Cooperating Partners (CP) in March, representing a slight decrease (2 percent) from dispatches in February. As of 3 April, more than 6,000 tons of food have been dispatched by road and air to the Darfur state capitals, representing 13 percent of the monthly dispatch plan of 47,030 tons. It should be noted that the monthly dispatch plan includes 6,325 tons for pre-positioning purposes in West Darfur.
- (g) WFP reached an estimated 1.4 million beneficiaries in Darfur in March (227,591 in El Fasher, 753,243 in Nyala and 428,111 in El Geneina). These are preliminary figures and are subject to change when final numbers are made available on 10 April. Limitations caused by insecurity in the region were the main reason why WFP did not reach its monthly target of 1.9 million beneficiaries.
- (h) Faced with the ongoing shortfall of sugar in the pipeline, and in an effort to ensure that beneficiaries under supplementary feeding programmes continue to receive the recommended calories, several CPs in Nyala, South Darfur have purchased small quantities of sugar from local markets.
- (i) WFP will cut non-cereal rations by half from May onwards, in order to guarantee at least

half portions of non-cereals in August and September distributions. Without additional contributions, the operation in Darfur faces a complete pipeline break in non-cereals.

- (j) The Darfur emergency operation still has outstanding Immediate Response Account (IRA) loans of USD 20 million and borrowings of 31,000 tons of commodities. Contributions are urgently required so that WFP can repay loans from other operations. Commodity shortfalls for the months April to December are estimated at about 98,845 tons.
- (k) As of 28 March, the Darfur EMOP 10339.1 requires an additional USD 171.2 million, or 39 percent of the total requirement for 2005. To date, the EMOP has received USD 267.1 million, equivalent to 61 percent of the overall requirements. It should be noted that the overall requirements do not take into account the USD 30 million budget revision that was recently approved. The Special Operation for logistics support in Darfur continues to face a shortfall of USD25 million. One hundred long-haul trucks must be procured urgently to augment current logistics capacity.
- (l) The Khartoum International Airport will be closed for maintenance from 10 April to 10 May 2005 from 09.00hrs to 17.00hrs. This is expected to seriously affect UN Humanitarian Air Services' ability to carry out passenger and cargo air services. WFP-HAS is re-scheduling flights for this period to before 09.00hrs and after 17.00hrs, where possible.
- (m) The WFP-HAS, which provides services to the entire humanitarian community in Sudan, faces a shortfall of USD 17 million. Of this, USD 5 million is urgently required to continue contracting and deploying the passenger aircraft required in the coming months, in support of the movement of passengers and humanitarian cargo in Sudan.
- (n) SOUTH, EAST and TRANSITIONAL AREAS:
- (o) Some 400 people fled to Mirmir in Unity State following the rapid deterioration of security in parts of the state, due to increasing local tensions over livestock.
- (p) UN staff movement in Rumbek was restricted, following looting and unrest after a traffic accident on 31 March. Registration and verification of beneficiaries continued this week. The objective of the exercise is to identify and register beneficiaries (including returnees) based on vulnerability criteria as well as to confirm beneficiaries who were previously registered. WFP will finalize the registration/verification exercise by mid-April.
- (q) IDPs in Mabilia Camp in Tambura, Western Equatoria will be relocated to Demzeber in Raja County on 10 April. About 150 IDPs (30% women) are clearing Zangabara road to allow ten trucks, hired by the Comboni Fathers based in the camp, to transport children, old people, disabled and expectant mothers.
- (r) According to the New Sudan Centre for Statistics and Evaluation (NSCSE), 190 IDPs from Kosti, White Nile State had arrived in Adior, Yirol County in Bahr El Ghazal State. Following a request by the Sustainable Return Team, WFP is making arrangements to coordinate an urgent assessment mission in the coming week to pave way for a quick response.
- (s) A WFP-led rapid field assessment started in the Nuba Mountains region during the week. The mission will assess the level of food insecurity in the region and recommend appropriate interventions.
- (t) Under EMOP 10048.3, Emergency Food Assistance to Population Affected by War and Drought, a total of 60 tons of assorted food commodities were distributed to the victims of explosions which occurred in Juba town a few weeks ago. WFP provided a one-month ration to assist 3,790 persons.
- (u) The Emergency Operation faces severe pipeline breaks for salt, sugar and CSB and will face breaks in cereals and pulses in May and oil in July. The projected shortfalls in food commodities will seriously affect the nutritional status of beneficiaries. For the

coming six months, a shortfall of over 60,055 tons of mixed food commodities is foreseen, if contributions are not mobilized in time.

- (v) The EMOP, valued at USD 302 million, has so far received USD 59.4 million, representing 20 percent of the total operational requirements. Urgent contributions are required to respond to the pressing food requirements in the coming months to allow commodities to be pre-positioned before the onset of the rainy season.
- (w) The supporting Special Operation, SO 10368.0, valued at USD 89 million, has received USD 30 million to date, representing about 34 percent of the total operational requirements.

(8) Tanzania

- (a) A total of 402,550 beneficiaries received some 1,125 tons of food through general distribution, supplementary feeding and therapeutic feeding in refugee camps in western Tanzania. A total of some 10,050 Tanzanians in the host communities surrounding the camps were supported with WFP host community activities.
- (b) WFP is currently distributing rations of 410g maize grain (or 350g maize meal), 80g pulses and 10g of vegetable oil. The current ration levels apply from 14 March – 15 June. While maize and pulses are being distributed at 100 percent of the normal level, no corn-soya blend or salt is being distributed. Refugees are receiving approximately 1,617 Kcal /day (87 percent of the normal ration level of 1,857 Kcal).
- (c) Following the 2004 Joint Assessment Mission (JAM) recommendations, WFP has requested its Executive Board to authorize a budget revision for the PRRO to allow an increase in the ration of pulses and maize, which would result in a daily intake of 2,100 Kcal. If this proposal is approved, WFP will require additional donor contributions to fund the increased rations.

(9) Uganda

- (a) The chief negotiator between the Government and the Lord's Resistance Army (LRA) has re-initiated contact with the LRA leadership in a bid to re-ignite the peace process, which had stalled following continuous hostilities that culminated in the capture and/or surrender of some senior LRA commanders in late January. No date has been set for further consultations between the LRA rebels and government.
- (b) The LRA continues to commit atrocities against civilians; last week, rebels attacked three villages in Apach district, abducted 13 people and looted household property and food.
- (c) The Government has warned that the prevailing extreme weather conditions could affect food production. A prolonged dry spell that affected most parts of the country from May-August 2004 resulted in very poor second season harvests.
- (d) WFP food distribution continued to reach 1.4 million displaced persons, 192,000 refugees and other vulnerable persons. During the period 19 to 25 March, WFP distributed about 2,725 tons of relief food assistance to 232,325 persons, including IDPs sheltering in camps in Gulu, Kitgum, Pader and Lira districts, refugees, children in nutrition centres and other vulnerable persons.
- (e) WFP's expanded PRRO 10121.1, Targeted Food Assistance to Refugees, Displaced Persons and Vulnerable Groups in Uganda, which targets 2.6 million IDPs, refugees and other vulnerable groups over three years, commenced on 1 April with its relief and recovery components.
- (f) WFP faces a shortfall of 106,225 tons of food commodities with a funding gap of USD 53 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.

(D) West Africa: (1) Regional (2) Burkina Faso (3) Chad (4) Cote d'Ivoire (5) Ghana (6) Guinea (7) Liberia (8) Mali

(1) Regional

- (a) Despite recent contributions, pipeline breaks continue to be a major problem for the regional West Africa Coastal PRRO 10064.3 and Cote d'Ivoire Regional PRRO 10372.0, and major shortfalls will be faced in the coming months, unless further support from donors is provided.
- (b) In order to mitigate the effects of the pipeline shortages facing the PRRO 10064.3, all of the countries have undertaken several steps to reduce distributions in the short-term. In Liberia, the rations for refugees, IDPs and returnees continue to be reduced (since June 2004), and expansions of Emergency School Feeding have been put on hold. In Guinea, refugee rations also continue to be reduced (since September 2004), and self reliance and integration activities (Food-For-Work and Food-For-Training) have been suspended since January 2004. In Sierra Leone, Food-For-Work and Food-For-Training activities were suspended in December; Institutional Feeding was cut in January and the planned expansion in School Feeding was postponed. Reduced school feeding rations will start this month. Refugee rations will also start being reduced in May. Additional donor support is urgently needed.

(2) Burkina Faso

- (a) Through Emergency Operation (EMOP) 10244.1/Protracted Relief and Recovery Operation (PRRO) 10372, WFP support to returnees is continuing. As more associations become aware of WFP's Food-For-Assets (FFA) activities, requests for expanding the project are increasing.
- (b) With the uncertain security situation in Cote d'Ivoire, WFP has also updated its contingency plans in Burkina Faso, should there be a need to support additional people crossing the border.

(3) Chad

- (a) The overall security situation in eastern Chad remains relatively calm.
- (b) Following the recent registration exercise in the camps, it was agreed that the target caseload for the month of March is 193,800 refugees. However, an additional 4,000 refugees with valid UNHCR cards were also assisted with WFP food despite not having been integrated in the new caseload. UNHCR will verify the beneficiary registration lists in those camps where uncertainties remain before releasing its final results. Also, UNHCR reported some 3,500 persons claiming to be refugees near Bahai and has requested WFP participation in their screening. WFP in Goz Beida reported the presence of some 800 persons at the reception sites, claiming to be refugees. Most are believed to be Chadian locals, but this has yet to be verified.
- (c) For the month of March, WFP distributed 3,325 tons to a total of 195,340 beneficiaries. This includes the 4,000 refugees who had not yet been integrated into the new targeted caseload, following the WFP/UNHCR registration exercise. WFP sub-offices are preparing for the next distributions, which are to set to commence on 14 April at complete rations. The next Blanket Supplementary Feeding (BSF) distributions are expected to take place in the following week in Djabal, Touloum, Oure Cassoni and Iridimi camps, targeting children under five. BSF distributions for the local population are planned to commence in the Bredjing and Treguine areas on 28 April. WFP Food-For-Work activities (FFW) for host communities are ongoing.

- (d) There are unconfirmed reports of kwashiorkor in some refugee camps, mainly Touloum and Iridimi, which are currently under investigation by WFP and NGO partners, MSF L and COOPI. At this time of the year water problems may have an impact on the health and nutritional conditions of the population.
- (e) For the period January–March 2005, WFP Humanitarian Air Services served a total of some 2,275 passengers. Main users include international NGOs, UN agencies, diplomatic corps and government counterparts.
- (f) WFP is working to reinforce its logistical capacities, particularly along the Libyan corridor, by increasing storage capacity as well as the number of staff. With respect to the pre-positioning of WFP food pre-positioning, some 4,000 tons are already in stock, sufficient to meet 1.5 months of requirements. WFP still requires additional quantities under the new EMOP to meet the needs of both the refugees and the host populations.

(4) Cote d'Ivoire

- (a) Further ethnic tensions have erupted near the buffer zone, southeast of Bouake, in the village of Boli. A disagreement between ethnic groups resulted in part of the village being almost completely burned, including 46 houses, the market, food stocks and seeds. Almost 500 people are displaced in Raviart and Bouake. Another 200 people, mainly women and children, have stayed in Boli and are camping there as their houses have been destroyed. WFP is providing high energy biscuits and a one-month general ration.
- (b) Taking into account other WFP activities in the country as well, from 31 March – 6 April, nearly 30,000 beneficiaries were fed with some 145 tons of food through various WFP programmes. The beneficiaries included more than 18,000 children being fed through emergency school feeding programmes, which are ongoing in the south and the north (as well as in areas in the buffer zone).
- (c) WFP Cote d'Ivoire is currently conducting a baseline survey for WFP Strategic Priority II- "Protect livelihoods in crisis situations and enhance resilience to shocks". This baseline will focus on WFP's Food-For-Agriculture project whereby beneficiaries receive seeds and tools along with a seed protection ration of rice, pulses and oil. The baseline survey started in the Man area and will continue in Guiglo and Bolequin next week. One hundred beneficiaries will be surveyed before and after the Food-For-Agriculture project.

(5) Ghana

- (a) Distributions to Liberian refugees reached 7,325 persons (i.e. 81 percent of targeted beneficiaries) during the last monthly distribution cycle through EMOP 10244.1/PRRO 10372. The food distribution was coordinated by the National Catholic Secretariat (NCS) in collaboration with WFP and UNHCR staff.

(6) Guinea

- (a) The voluntary repatriation process of Liberian refugees continues. From 21 March to 3 April, some 1,715 Liberian refugees were repatriated from the Kouankan, Kountaya and Laine camps. Since the beginning of the repatriation campaign in November 2004, some 5,200 Liberians have returned home.
- (b) UNHCR has announced its intention of accelerating the voluntary repatriation of Liberian refugees, as the current level is slower than originally planned. This is putting an additional stress on WFP's limited resources, as there is a higher-than-expected refugee caseload continuing today (nearly 74,000 refugees). WFP has requested UNHCR to reinforce security measures in the camps in the N'Zerekore area in order to

reduce risks connected with increasing frustration amongst refugees over reduced food rations.

- (c) After break of 2.5 months, food distributions were resumed to the schools in the emergency school feeding programme, and more than 70,000 children were fed. During the period between 21 March and 3 April, more than 94,000 beneficiaries received nearly 500 tons of food.
- (d) WFP is providing high energy biscuits and a one-month general ration to people affected by recent violence near Cote d'Ivoire's buffer zone.

(7) Liberia

- (a) From 28 March to 3 April, some 1,850 tons of food were distributed to nearly 200,000 vulnerable beneficiaries throughout Liberia. This included more than 150,000 children, who were fed through the emergency school feeding programme. Resources permitting, WFP plans to reach nearly 700,000 beneficiaries in April under the various ongoing programmes, including general food distributions, school feeding, resettlement of IDPs and refugees, and support to institutions such as orphanages.
- (b) In a move to accelerate the return and resettlement of IDPs, WFP and other humanitarian agencies continued the distribution of the resettlement packages in the camps. During the week, WFP provided the first tranche of a two-month resettlement food assistance package totaling 41 tons of assorted food commodities to 1,200 IDPs, who are expected to move from the Fendell IDP camp and the Perry Town Way-Station. IDPs who received the resettlement package are expected to leave the camps and return to their home counties within 10 days.
- (c) In support of the efforts to encourage the attendance of girls during Upper Primary and Lower Secondary education, WFP has initiated implementation of the Take Home food Rations for girls within the framework of the emergency school feeding programme component. Some 1,600 school girls in Bomi and Gbarpolu counties will be the first to benefit from this initiative.
- (d) WFP aims to reach 14 of 15 counties in April-June with Food in Support of Local Initiatives (FSLI) in April. Types of support will range from support to initiatives by women's organizations such as the "Zota Women Group Empowerment Project" to support to agricultural activities carried out by child ex-combatants receiving vocational training. Assorted tools for FSLI projects were delivered during the week to WFP sub-offices for group farmers and infrastructure projects. Assorted tools included machetes, files, regular hoes, traditional hoes, axes, diggers, shovels, rakes and wheel barrows.
- (e) Liberia currently faces one of the highest prevalence of the HIV/AIDS pandemic in the West African Region, estimated at 8-12 percent. WFP this week delivered 265 tons of food commodities to 10,200 beneficiaries of HIV/AIDS and institutional feeding programmes (orphans, TB, in-patients, etc.).

(8) Mali

- (a) WFP continues to contribute to the integration of returnees into their communities of origin (villages, suburbs) by trying to minimize the burden on receiving families. Through EMOP 10244.1/PRRO 10372, ongoing Food-For-Work activities are enabling the conservation and appreciation of natural resources.

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

(1) Regional

- (a) From April to June, food needs in the six southern African countries where WFP carries out its Protracted Relief and Recovery Operation (PRRO) are 80,300 tons. With opening April stocks of only 16,000 tons, the operation will continue to operate on a hand-to-mouth basis and is dependent on new donor contributions.
- (b) While the original PRRO 10310, Assistance to Populations in Southern Africa Vulnerable to Food Insecurity and the Impact of HIV/AIDS, did not make provisions for Zimbabwe, a budget revision was approved by WFP's Executive Director on 4 April to include Zimbabwe into the regional PRRO for the remaining of this year. Including the needs of Zimbabwe up to 30 September, the PRRO has a food requirement of 704,000 tons of food, costing USD 424 million.

(2) Angola

- (a) In Angola, the number of people officially recorded to have contracted the Marburg virus is now 163, of which 150 have died. The focus of the infection continues to be primarily in Uige Province in the northeast of the country. Despite several suspected cases in different areas, only one new fatal case was confirmed outside Uige, in Kwanza-Norte Province. WFP continues to support the efforts of the local authorities and WHO through the provision of logistical support, including air transportation for medical personnel and equipment, road transport for health experts in Uige, warehousing and distribution of medicines and equipment. An appeal, led by OCHA, is being prepared for presentation to Angolan-resident donors, which requests USD 225,000 to fund air passenger service to Uige Province and a further USD 60,000 to allow WFP to resume the air lift of food to Negage and M'Banza Congo for two additional months. Currently, road transporters are unwilling to continue to provide transportation to these locations due to the epidemic.
- (b) In Moxico Province, an anti-tank mine was found on the Lumbala N'guimbo airstrip on 2 April. Although the mine has been removed by the Angola Armed Forces, it was recommended that the airstrip remain closed until the NGO Mine Awareness Group (MAG) undertakes a thorough demining effort. Currently, WFP has approximately 30,000 beneficiaries in the municipality of Lumbala N'guimbo, which is only accessible by air. With the exception of salt, WFP has already pre-positioned food, which will assist the beneficiaries for at least one month. WFP also provides passenger air transportation to roughly 25 humanitarian workers in and round Lumbala N'guimbo every month.
- (c) In Kuando Kubango Province, 125 refugee families (450 people) have spontaneously returned to Angola from the neighbouring countries of Zambia, Namibia and Botswana. UNHCR's organized repatriation exercise resumed on 5 April and it is estimated that Kuando Kubango Province will receive approximately 2,500 returnees from various refugee settlements in Zambia and Namibia. Despite a critical lack of resources, WFP is still providing support to returning refugees once they arrive in Angola.
- (d) The Angola PRRO 10054.2, Assistance to War Affected People, continues to be seriously under-funded. The operation requires approximately USD 30 million, or 45,000 tons of food to support beneficiaries through the end of the year. Without immediate new contributions, WFP will have to introduce additional distribution cuts in the coming months.

(3) Lesotho

- (a) Mixed conditions are reported from Lesotho. In the lowlands and foothills, where most cereal production takes place, early season rains were poor, delaying planting and limiting the areas where planting is possible. From January onwards, good rains were reported; and although these were too late to give a satisfactory maize harvest, they are

welcome for pasture and water supplies. By contrast, in the highlands, rainfall has been good throughout the season and an above average highland crop is forecast, provided there is no significant frost damage before the end of April. Taking the country overall, the FAO/WFP Rapid Crop Assessment now estimates the 2004/05 crop to be 84 percent of the five-year average.

- (b) From 30 March to 4 April, a total of 1,854 tons of food were distributed to beneficiaries in various programmes supporting Mother and Child Health Care, HIV/AIDS, tuberculosis and home-based care patients, vulnerable group feeding, orphans and other vulnerable children, and Food-For-Work participants.

(4) Madagascar

- (a) During March, several regions were affected by severe weather conditions that brought abnormally high rainfall, which resulted in flooding. The most severely affected areas are located in Alaotra region in eastern Toamasina Province, Boeny, Diana and Sofia regions in the north-western part of the country, and in Midongy village in the south-eastern section (Fianarantsoa Province). According to the National Body for Disaster Management (Centre National de Secours – CNS), the number of people affected now stands at 99,900. Subsequent to the disaster, several assessment missions organized by CNS have been conducted jointly with the Malagasy Government, UN agencies and NGOs. WFP is providing assistance through general food distributions and provisions of BP5s to the affected population. Flooding has also affected approximately 35,000 hectares of cultivated land and has caused increases in food prices in local markets.

(5) Malawi

- (a) The second round of crop estimates has been released and maize yields have been preliminarily estimated at 1.3 million tons, the lowest since 1992. A Malawi Vulnerability Assessment Committee has prepared a pre-harvest assessment, in order to provide advice on the food security situation from April to June. Results of this assessment are expected in the course of the coming week.

(6) Namibia

- (a) The official Crop Assessment Report for March 2005 has estimated the total production of coarse grain for the 2004/05-production year to be approximately 129,300 tons, 2 percent above the last agricultural season, and about 28 percent above the five-year average production of 100,700 tons. The production of winter wheat is expected to be 10,500 tons, compared to 11,500 tons in 2003/04. The production of other crops is expected to go well. However, the situation is dependent upon the continuance of proper rainfall.

(7) Swaziland

- (a) The suspension of beef exports to the European Union (EU) has led to a 14 percent fall in the price of local cattle. Government sources indicate that the temporary suspension is due to various concerns raised by EU inspectors regarding the operations of Swaziland Meat Industries, Ltd. The recent government newsletter, Swaziland Today, reports that local beef will now be exported to Mozambique and South Africa.
- (b) There has been an attack of locusts in drought-prone Luvamisa in the Lowveld, threatening to destroy the vegetation. The Ministry of Agriculture and Cooperatives has deployed officers from the Plant Protection and Entomology Units at the Malkerns Research Station to assess the extent of infestation in the area.

(8) Zambia

- (a) The Government of Zambia (GRZ) has officially adopted the findings and recommendations of a recent Rapid Food Security Assessment. Findings indicate that crop failure is imminent in Southern, Western, Central, Lusaka and Eastern Provinces. Recommendations include a request for a FAO/WFP Crop and Food Supply Assessment Mission (CFSAM) and the continued implementation of the on-going Comprehensive Vulnerability Assessment. WFP is working with GRZ, FEWS-Net and FAO to assess food needs throughout the country.

(9) Zimbabwe

- (a) Parliamentary elections held on 31 March were generally peaceful, with the incumbent ruling party winning a majority of seats. Cabinet appointments, as well as Government appointments to 30 parliamentary seats, are expected soon.
- (b) Good rains were received in the semi-arid Matabeleland region during the past week. The rains have come too late for an already-wilted crop. However, they will improve the condition of pasture for animals and the availability of drinking water. Senior government officials continue to express concern over an expected poor harvest in the country. However, the government has not yet announced plans to meet the anticipated harvest shortfall.
- (c) A steep price increase in all basic commodities and a severe shortage of fuel and maize meal products is reported. The price of some commodities has increased by over 100 percent, while the Grain Marketing Board is reported to be holding urgent consultations over the shortage of maize products. When available, the price of a kilo of maize grain ranges from the equivalent of US27-38 cents, well above the casual daily wage equivalent to US25 cents.
- (d) Motorists are queuing for hours to buy fuel when it is available. The shortage is worst felt in Bulawayo city, where supplies are critically low.
- (e) WFP expects to feed 1.1 million beneficiaries during April through three targeted programmes: school feeding, supplementary feeding for malnourished children and support for HIV/AIDS affected households. However, WFP's food supplies to programmes are running low, with significant shortages expected in May. Without additional resources, WFP will be forced to reduce support to a targeted 1.1 million beneficiaries, most of them children and HIV/AIDS affected households. The most critical needs are for cereals and corn-soya blend.

(F) Asia: (1) Indonesia (2) Korea (DPR) (3) Laos (4) Myanmar (5) Sri Lanka

(1) Indonesia

- (a) In response to the 28 March earthquake in Nias and Simeulue islands in north Sumatra, the immigration office has announced that visas on arrival will be granted for 30 days to those engaged with humanitarian assistance.
- (b) The planned beneficiary caseload for WFP's tsunami response in Indonesia, for the month of April, increased to 720,000; this including tsunami and earthquake affected beneficiaries.
- (c) WFP has revised its planned caseload for Nias and Simeulue to 208,000 beneficiaries. This includes approximately 20,000 beneficiaries previously assisted after the December tsunami.
- (d) A total of 920 tons of food commodities has been sent to Nias and Simeulue. Since most of the roads in Simeulue and Nias are impassable, WFP is exploring maximum

use of its air assets to deliver food to the population in need within the islands. Children in tsunami affected areas, participating in school feeding programme (SF), which commenced this month, will receive fortified biscuits; which will be phased out of the general food basket. On 5 April, school feeding activities began in Pidie with WFP's local cooperating partner, Keumang. The target for April is to cover the total of 192 schools in 13 sub-districts for some 37,000 beneficiaries.

- (e) The first general food distribution in Patek, Aceh Jaya was completed for approximately 5,000 beneficiaries who received a one-week ration. In the coming days WFP will attempt to deliver additional commodities to Patek, in order to ensure that the full requirements are covered.
- (f) Distributions of approximately 55 tons of rice were made to internally displaced persons by a local government agency. WFP coordinated the food distribution with the government to avoid duplication.
- (g) WFP facilitated the visit of Indonesia's Director General of the Department of Social Affairs to Aceh Jaya, Pidie, Bireuen and Lhokseumawe. The Government delegation was monitoring WFP and Government assistance to people affected by the tsunami.
- (h) Mr. Jean-Jacques Graisse, WFP Senior Deputy Executive Director arrived in Jakarta on 6 April for a 4-day visit to Indonesia. His mission included a meeting with the Vice President of Indonesia, the Acting Governor of Aceh Province and the Governor of North Sumatra Province.

(2) Korea (DPR)

- (a) The government in DPR Korea confirmed the outbreak of Avian Influenza on 27 March. According to the government, the outbreak had actually started on 25 February. So far, nearly 220,000 chickens have been culled in the three farms around Pyongyang affected by the Influenza. No human cases have been reported so far.
- (b) Caritas has confirmed a contribution of 1,020 tons of wheat flour to support the East Coast Local Food Production (LFP) factories, as well as 100 tons of dry skimmed milk and 63 tons of sugar for factories in the West. The wheat flour will sustain production of biscuits, noodles and corn-maize blend (CMB) for 20-25 days. The outlook for the LFP pipeline remains bleak for cereals, especially for wheat/wheat flour. New donations of wheat/wheat flour are urgently needed to continue production of fortified noodles and CMB as well as enriched biscuits once Caritas donated wheat flour is consumed by the end of May/beginning June.

(3) Laos

- (a) The Government of Laos gave WFP's outgoing Representative in the country its highest possible award for a foreigner in recognition of his efforts through the agency to assist the hungry poor in Laos over the past five years. The Government underlined that between 2000 and 2005, WFP had invested some USD 50 million in emergency and development activities and assisted nearly 500,000 vulnerable people.

(4) Myanmar

- (a) In the framework of tsunami response activities, all food deliveries to the Delta region have been completed according to schedule and prior to the onset of the rainy season. WFP continues to deliver food to Palonetone village by boat, as truck transportation via the Palonetone bridge, which was damaged by the tsunami and since repaired, is presently not allowed. The use of the bridge would reduce travel time as well as cost. WFP and cooperating partner World Vision are looking at the possibility of using the bridge with the permission of the local authorities.

- (b) In Ayeyarwaddy division, about 165 tons of food were distributed for Food-For-Work (FFW) activities, which included the construction of water ponds, houses and village access roads. The beneficiaries are estimated to be over 10,000 as detailed food distribution data from different locations are being compiled. WFP and partner World Vision continue to examine the possibility of initiating additional FFW activities in the affected villages of Kwathaung. Future activities in the coming months will include house and school construction, renovation of road and community centres and bridge construction.
- (c) In Tanintharyi division, the food distribution for April (4th cycle) has started in Kawthoung, targeting 4,180 beneficiaries. So far, some 1,000 beneficiaries or 24 percent of the targeted people have received their food ration amounting to 12 tons of mixed commodities.
- (d) A total of 3 tons of food was distributed to 205 beneficiaries of Chang Wa village for road renovation.
- (e) Besides its support to tsunami affected people, WFP in Myanmar continued other operations in the country. During the month of March, WFP has distributed some 220 tons of mixed food to approximately 18,000 beneficiaries in Northern Rakhine State.
- (f) WFP is suggesting to increase the target caseload of Food-For-Work and in particular Food-For-Training activities in Maungdaw and Buthidaung in Northern Rakhine State. WFP also discussed with local NRS authorities on transport permit problems and the possibility of purchasing rice locally.
- (g) Under the PRRO operation in Magway, WFP has started providing food distribution to vulnerable groups in six townships. A total of 105 tons of mixed food was delivered to 8,000 beneficiaries during the past two weeks.

(5) Sri Lanka

- (a) Unidentified gunmen in Ampara district shot and killed a member of the EPDP (Eelam Peoples Democratic Party) in Akkaraipattu on 5 April. In a similar incident on the previous day, the EPDP office at the Karathivu Junction was attacked with a grenade. In Batticaloa, a civilian, reported to be a supporter of EPDP, was shot and seriously injured on 5 April. Another incident in the district was reported on 4 April when a director of the Ministry of Vocational Training was shot and killed by an unidentified gunman. On 5 April a Sri Lanka Navy in-shore patrol craft, with a representative of the Sri Lanka Monitoring Mission (SLMM) and seven sailors aboard, came under attack while on routine patrol in Upparu, South of Trincomalee Harbour. No casualties were reported.
- (b) Two general strikes (hartals) were called by tsunami victims in Thirukkivil and Karativu, demanding that authorities provide them with shelter and other assistance. A one-day demonstration by a fishing community in Tellipalai division, Jaffna district, was held to urge authorities to include new beneficiaries in the general food distribution. No more coupons will be issued and WFP beneficiary numbers will remain the same.
- (c) WFP in collaboration with key implementing partner, the Ministry of Relief, Rehabilitation and Reconciliation (MRRR), have urged the local authorities at the Multi Purpose Cooperative Societies (MPCSs) to speed up compilation of data showing the actual number of beneficiaries, actual food distributed and other data pertaining to food assistance. Now that the LOU between WFP and the government has been signed, it is expected that data will become available shortly.
- (d) In many of the divisions in Ampara district, people are reportedly leaving the camps and either returning their homes or moving in with friends or relatives. This has reduced the number of people in welfare camps.
- (e) Heavy rains have begun in Trincomalee. This caused hardship for the beneficiaries who

were living in temporary shelters and they were forced to move to higher ground. WFP has provided emergency rations of high energy biscuits.

- (f) The pilot school feeding programme, in partnership with Unilever Sri Lanka Ltd, is progressing well; the second allotment of food has been released to the school in Galle. The construction and renovation of the school kitchen is also continuing; the facility is expected to be fully completed by end of April.

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

(1) Bolivia

- (a) For the last two weeks, the country has been relatively peaceful. The hydrocarbons law, which has been at the centre of civil unrest, continues to be revised by the Chamber of the Senate. Indigenous groups stay alert, waiting for senators to ratify the article by which indigenous peoples would have the chance to veto hydrocarbons exploitation in their territories. Oil companies, on the other hand, continue to send messages to Government institutions and Congress on the discouragement of the gas industry in Bolivia if the law regarding royalties and taxes is approved as proposed by Congress. In order to keep the country peaceful, the government and various social and political sectors are working on a national agreement that may enable the President to govern within a peaceful environment until the end of his term in 2007.
- (b) While this week distributions under EMOP 10392.0, Drought in El Chaco Region, resumed, these remain difficult due to bad road conditions. DRIPAD, WFP's cooperating partner (CP), distributed during this reporting week 59 tons of food to almost 930 families in the municipalities of Machareti and Huacaya.
- (c) Distribution of some 130 tons to the municipality of Charagua is still pending, due to bad road conditions in the area. Distributions are expected to resume on 8 April, as train transport becomes available.

(2) Colombia

- (a) Some 250 Colombians caught in the cross-fire between irregular armed groups have fled their community in Bojaya, (province of Choco), bringing the number of people displaced in the area in recent weeks to more than 2,000. Fighting between irregular armed groups is now taking place in the countryside surrounding Bellavista, the municipal capital of Bojaya in Choco province.
- (b) Some 4,000 indigenous people belonging to the Embera and Wounaan communities along the Cuia and Bojaya rivers are also at grave risk of becoming internally displaced by severe hardship and insecurity caused by the presence of irregular armed groups on their land.
- (c) Different UN agencies (including WFP) have issued warnings about the worsening of the humanitarian situation in the Bojaya area (province of Choco) and have sent a joint statement to the Colombian Government and the international community to take urgent action in order to avoid a potential humanitarian disaster.
- (d) Also in response to this situation, WFP is delivering 47 tons of emergency food aid through the Atrato River to assist about 4,500 people, including indigenous and afro Colombians.
- (e) New displacements have also been reported in the Sierra Nevada region (provinces of Magdalena and Cesar). According to local authorities, 21 indigenous families (about 85 people) were forced to flee due to clashes between illegal armed groups in the region. The families also claim that members of the illegal armed groups took all their cattle.

They are temporarily settled in an indigenous community house located in the municipality of Campana Nuevo and some of them are facing health and nutritional problems. WFP delivered emergency food rations to assist these people.

- (f) WFP implements several different activities in the above mentioned areas as part of PRRO 10158. A total of 310 tons of food were delivered last week and assistance to people displaced by violence was provided. The food was distributed in 8 provinces reaching 30,385 people. These commodities were distributed through Food-For-Crisis, community kitchens, Food-For Work (FFW) and Food-For-Training activities.

(3) Cuba

- (a) Cuba's worst drought in a century has reportedly left one in six Cubans without running water. Conditions are expected to become grave in the following months due to below average rainfall in eastern Cuba.
- (b) According to Reuters, the dry weather this year has further eaten away at Cuba's already drought-ravaged sugar crop, forcing the traditional sugar exporter to import sugar for domestic consumption because local output is tied up in supply contracts. This year's sugar crop will be the lowest since 1909.
- (c) WFP is currently designing an emergency operation - EMOP - to provide assistance to drought affected populations in the provinces of Santiago, Las Tunas, Holguin, Granma, Guantanamo and Camagüey.

(4) Guatemala

- (a) Forest fires continue. These are mainly in the province of Peten, where inhabitants of 23 communities have occupied forest lands illegally and have deliberately started at least ten fires. In March, 41 forest fires were reported in the province of Jalapa and 14 in Chiquimula. With the aim of protecting natural resources in Peten, the government has established a development task force which will have access to a USD 0.5 million loan granted by the International Development Bank.
- (b) WFP is replenishing maize stocks under its PRRO 10212, with the purchase of 900 tons, which were locally procured with a cash contribution. A warehouse in the highlands already received the first 110 tons.

(5) Haiti

- (a) The entire country continues in UN security phase III. Gangs continue to operate, mainly targeting the local population, Haitian National Police (HNP) and MINUSTAH troops. The increase in violence, witnessed since mid-March following the MINUSTAH operations in Petit-Goave and Terre Rouge, has fuelled further security concerns, after incidents targeting both transitional institutions and MINUSTAH. Criminal acts in Port-au-Prince are occurring more and more frequently in those neighbourhoods, that so far had been considered safe, such as Petionville, Musseau and Paco, where most of the UN personnel's residences are located.
- (b) On March 29 and 1 April pro-Lavalas (the political party of ousted ex-President Aristide) demonstrations took place in the capital's Bel Air area. A major joint MINUSTAH/HNP operation was launched in Cite Soleil to restore law and order in the largest slum of Haiti, marred by criminality and gang warfare. The operation is scheduled to last two weeks. Monitoring field activities in the area of Port-au-Prince were reduced to a minimum during the past week, due to the described security situation. During the past week, a total of about 530 tons of food were delivered to health centres and schools (EMOP and CP) in the West, North and North-East departments; to Port-au-Prince; and to the various implementing partners of PRRO activities in the North-West and Central

Plateau.

- (c) In Gonaives, 24 tons of WFP food were distributed by implementing partner CARE to 3,270 beneficiaries (children and families in orphanage and hospice in localities of Dolan and Marose). The 24 tons was the balance of the more than 6,200 tons of food that WFP delivered to its implementing partner CARE during the six-month long emergency operation in Gonaives and other flood-affected areas.
- (d) The Government, under its National Campaign for de-worming in the North and North East Departments, supported by WFP, continues with the training of the departmental staff of the Ministries of Health and Education on the administration of the de-worming tablets. Some 630,000 school children are targeted by the de-worming campaign, which aims at improving their nutritional status, growth, intellectual development, school performance and hence future productivity as adults.

(6) Nicaragua

- (a) Food distributions to vulnerable groups, including school boys and girls, under PRRO 10212.0 continue. An estimated 10,365 pregnant and nursing women; 11,160 children under 2 and 53,805 schoolchildren in the Central and Northern Atlantic Regions will benefit. Food-For-Work activities are scheduled to resume in the course of this month.
- (b) The PRRO will face shortfalls of rice (463 tons), beans (417 tons), vegetable oil (254 tons), maize (160 tons) and CSB (53 tons) through August 2005. If no commodities are announced in the coming months or those that are announced arrive late, the PRRO will face serious pipeline breaks during the second quarter of the year.

(7) Peru

- (a) Following a strike by farmers in the provinces of Andahuaylas and Chincheros, in the Andean region of Apurimac, the Peruvian government declared a state of emergency in the area on 3 April. The state of emergency, which suspends certain civil liberties in the region, will be in effect for 30 days
- (b) In the department of Puno, several leaders of the Defence Committee representing more than fifty neighbourhoods from Juliaca threatened the government because of its failure to meet election promises and demanded the immediate removal of corrupt authorities. It is expected that protesters will next demonstrate on the 20 April if the government continues to ignore their demands.
- (c) Food distributions that are planned to take place within the framework of EMOP 10393 in the departments of Puno and Apurimac could be affected if the above mentioned protests are extended beyond mid April.

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

WFP Weekly Emergency Report

From **David Kaatrud**, Chief of the Analysis, Assessment and Preparedness Service of the United Nations World Food Programme (ODA); also available online at www.wfp.org^[1] or go directly to the [WFP Newsroom](#)^[2].

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

Also available by e-mail from **Carlo Scaramella**, Chief of the Emergency Preparedness and Response Branch (ODAP).

Carlo.Scaramella@wfp.org

For information on resources, donors are requested to contact **Valerie Sequeira**:

Valerie.Sequeira@wfp.org

tel: +39 06 6513 2009

Via Cesare Giulio Viola 68, Parco dei Medici, 00148 Rome - Italy

Media queries should be directed to **Brenda Barton** at:

Brenda.Barton@wfp.org

tel: +39 06 6513 2602

Via Cesare Giulio Viola 68, Parco dei Medici, 00148 Rome - Italy