

World Food Programme Emergency Report 2005
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(A) Highlights

- (a) In Niger, according to the Government's National Early Warning system, the number of people in urgent need of food aid is 2.65 million. WFP, the Government and the NGO partners are coordinating efforts in order to reach all 2.65 million people in August.
- (b) The distribution to 380 flood-affected families in Gupis, Yasin and Panial "tehsils" (sub-districts) of Ghizer district, considered logistically challenging as the food has to be transported to an altitude of 10,100 feet by head load, has been completed. The transportation of food to the distribution points was done in multiple phases using carriages, tractor trolleys and vans.
- (c) The UN Secretary General (SG), Kofi Annan has sent a letter to approximately 20 Heads of State and donors regarding the serious humanitarian situation in southern Africa. The SG asked the world's leaders to do everything in their power to ensure that southern Africa does not become another crisis that could have been prevented.
- (d) The security situation in Sudan following the death of Sudan's Vice President Dr. John Garang has affected WFP deliveries as certain logistical hubs were closed during the week. Commodities allocated for the Khartoum warehouse were re-routed to El Obeid. In spite of this, WFP managed to despatch an average of 1,350 tons per day during the first week of August.
- (e) In Chad, WFP completes food distributions in southern and central camps, with full rations of 2,070 Kcal/person/day.
- (f) In the Palestinian Territories, WFP supplies have been pre-positioned in warehouses in the Gaza Strip.

- (B) Middle East, Central Asia and Eastern Europe:** (1) Afghanistan (2) Albania (3) Occupied Palestinian Territories (4) Pakistan

(1) Afghanistan

- (a) The general security situation remained volatile in the eastern (some districts of Kunar and Nuristan provinces), south-eastern and southern regions, while the rest of the

country remained relatively calm but observed some limited Anti-Government Element related incidents in Kunduz and Mazar and several in the central region. Peportedly, the risk of factional clashes is increasing in the north and northeast.

- (b) From 4-10 August, approximately 254,000 people were assisted with 3,900 tons of food. WFP has started pre-positioning 23,000 tons of mixed food for nearly half a million vulnerable Afghans living in rural areas who will become inaccessible and will be cut off from markets once the cold weather sets in as early as September. Targeted areas cover 69 districts in 17 provinces. Food will be distributed under regular projects such as school feeding, food-for-work, food-for-non-formal-education and food assistance to rural vulnerable.

(2) Albania

- (a) The parliamentary elections were held on 3 July 2005 without any major incident although the UN field security office called for heightened security awareness for UN personnel in Albania. The preliminary election results indicate that the current government will be stepping down and the main opposition party (Democrat) will be sworn in. According to constitutional lawyers, the new government might be formed not before the end of August or beginning of September 2005.
- (b) A three-month extension of the Protracted Relief and Recovery Operation (PRRO) 10165.1 was approved without any increase of food allocation to complete distribution of commodities and achieve planned targets. During July, WFP supported 2,842 workers under Food-For-Work (FFW) activities for the development of road and water pipeline schemes. Under the social sector 5,733 women attended training and counselling sessions while 1,942 participants were involved in communal forestry activities. Under all the three sectors, 743.355 tons of wheat flour, vegetable oil and salt were distributed to the beneficiaries. All the commodities were delivered and distributed as per plan during the reporting period (July 1-31).

(3) Occupied Palestinian Territories

- (a) While clashes between militant palestinian groups and the Israeli Defence Forces (IDF) in the Gaza Strip (missile/mortar fire, bombings and exchanges of fire) have reduced significantly, this week has witnessed a serious deterioration of internal security in the occupied Palestinian territories (oPt). Whilst the Palestinian Authorities (PA) have attempted some arrests, they have in turn released key militants conceding to the demands of kidnappers and have failed to implement measures to reduce the spiralling crime rate and lawlessness.
- (b) The security situation in Gaza Strip has already forced the ICRC to suspend its programme in Southern Gaza Strip and other staff are largely confined to their accommodation (following the attempted kidnap of their staff and 15 bullets shot at their office). The IDF have reiterated that they will not tolerate militant attack during disengagement (starting next week) and any attack will evoke a large military response. This is likely to comprise of re-occupation of large sections of the Northern and Southern Gaza Strip for weeks at a time. Political attempts to block Gaza Strip/West Bank disengagement have failed to date. In a symbolic gesture, former Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu resigned from government in protest.
- (c) The UN Security Management Team are discussing a transition to phase 4. Owing to the security situation in the Gaza Strip, no movement of WFP staff to the South of Gaza has been allowed. WFP staff in Khan Younis were requested to stay at home on Tuesday 9/8/05 for security reasons. All planned missions/trips to Gaza were suspended. According the IDF briefings on disengagement; from 15th August, both the Gaza Strip and the West Bank will become closed military zones and humanitarian

corridors will be established to facilitate movement of essential supplies/services. Although the IDF refused to confirm, withdrawal from Gaza is expected to commence immediately with the West Bank to follow around 4-9 September.

- (d) In the West Bank, the IDF restricted movement and access to Qalqilia and Tulkarem. Nevertheless WFP attended the distribution for the Social Hardship Cases (SHCs) in `Anabta village / Tulkarm. In the Gaza Strip, supplies have now been pre-positioned. WFP is considering to already start distributions to the New Poor (NP) in light of very likely closures during the withdrawal.
- (e) Food distribution to SHC in West Bank, SHC and NP in Gaza Strip, and institutions throughout oPt continues. There was disruption of monitoring activities in Southern Gaza Strip following an attempted kidnapping. Assessment of all current institutions continued in the West Bank.
- (f) During August 5-11, 1290 tons were delivered to the Gaza strip and West Bank in support of the Emergency operation (EMOP) and the Protracted Relief and Recovery Operation (PRRO)
- (g) WFP's disengagement vulnerability mapping is almost complete. It will be a supplement to the vulnerability assessment mapping guidelines during disengagement already completed and aims to guide field staff in operations. The principle is that areas with 56 percent food insecurity and above should be assisted after 4-6 days, areas of 55 percent and under should be assisted after 10 -14 days (depending on the situation).

(4) Pakistan

- (a) WFP approved an Emergency Operation (EMOP) on 14 July through which some 7,900 families in North West Frontier Province (NWFP) and Northern Areas will be assisted with a food ration, completing the assistance provided by the Government and other actors. Using 9 UN trucks, 55 tons of food commodities for 850 families severely affected by floods reached the three delivery points in Gilgit, Gupis (Ghizer) and Gawari (Ghanche) in the Northern Areas. The distribution to 380 flood-affected families in Gupis, Yasin and Panial "tehsils" (sub-districts) of Ghizer district, considered logistically challenging as the food was transported up to an altitude of 10,100 feet by head load, has been completed. The transportation of food to the distribution points was done in multiple phases using carriages, tractor trolleys and vans. Food distribution to 370 families in Ghanche district has also been completed. The final distribution of food to the affected population in Gilgit district is expected to be completed next week.
- (b) In NWFP, WFP's cooperating partner, International Rescue Committee (IRC), has distributed food to 3,780 families in Peshawar and Nowshera districts. IRC will now proceed with food distributions to flood-affected Afghan refugee families living in refugee camps. Islamic Relief, WFP's other cooperating partner in NWFP has completed food distributions in Charsadda district, assisting 1,780 affected families.
- (c) Identification, verification and listing of beneficiaries, food storage arrangements, transport and distribution was carried out by WFP staff in close coordination with the government and local representatives and community members.

(C) 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) Last week, some 1,100 Burundian returnees arrived from Rwanda. Repatriation from Tanzania is also increasing, with over 2,700 returnees reported last week. Some 10,000 returnees per month are estimated for the coming months. About 240,000 Burundian

refugees are still in camps in Tanzania.

- (b) Shooting took place close to a food distribution site in Muzinda, Bubanza province, just as the WFP team was leaving the area. Further distributions for this week have been postponed. The situation is now calm.
- (c) Last week, WFP distributed 780 tons of food aid to 77,600 beneficiaries.
- (d) WFP continues to focus an important part of its monitoring activities on the evolution of the food security situation, through household visits and market monitoring in the provinces of Ngozi, Muyinga and Kirundo, which also host noticeable numbers of asylum-seekers from Rwanda and have been registering increased returnees. The concerns about the deteriorating food security situation, due to poor crops and increased pressure on land, are still valid. The household vulnerability study, carried out to complement the results of the Crop and Food Supply Assessment, will assist WFP in fine-tuning the areas of intervention and the level of needs.
- (e) WFP continues to face serious food pipeline constraints due to insufficient funding. Various food aid activities have been put on hold, or their rations decreased. Only key projects are implemented at full capacity. Some food distributions increased recently, due to improved stocks. Suspension of targeted distributions and ration cuts continue to secure stocks for the seeds protection campaign.

(2) Congo, DR

- (a) The degree of insecurity in Ituri district high due to the military operations of militiamen in areas surrounding the Lokpa-Gina axis. Aid workers were therefore unable to reach the displaced persons (IDPs) in Gina camp and the local population could not tend their fields.
- (b) In North-Kivu province, another clash involving Mai-Mai and Front pour la Libération du Rwanda (FDLR) fighters were reported in Ishasha (130 km north of Goma). The clash, which occurred on 6 August, claimed the lives of 7 civilians and 5 Mai-Mai combatants while a hundred people had reportedly crossed the border into Uganda. Meanwhile, in Rushuru territory, the situation was still confused due to unremitting attacks and consequent continuing displacements of population.
- (c) On 21 July and during the night of 23 to 24 July in Mbandaka, Equateur province unidentified gunmen looted WFP food commodities. The looting occurred in the warehouses of WFP implementing partners, Adventist Development and Relief Agency (ADRA) and Action Internationale de la Charité (AIC). Through the support of local authorities, 10 tons out of the total 15 tons stolen were taken back to WFP warehouse. Investigations are still ongoing to determine who was responsible. Meanwhile, United Nations Mission in the Democratic Republic of Congo (MONUC) informed WFP that the situation of soldiers in Mbandaka, either the regular army or militiamen waiting for reintegration, was highly precarious. They were still unpaid and their minimum essential needs not met.
- (d) Aid workers including WFP staff, in North Kivu province, focused on the renewed insecurity in Ishasha. During the last couple of weeks, the area had been sheltering IDPs from Nyakakoma. With renewed clashes, WFP is planning an assessment mission to determine the food needs of the affected population. Last week, through implementing partner CARITAS, 52 tons of food were distributed to meet the critical food needs of 6,500 IDPs in Ishasha.
- (e) In Bunia, 22 additional girls had joined the Cooperazione Internazionale (COOPI) transit/orientation centre while 11 others had been reintegrated with their families. Similarly, in Kpandruma, Ituri district 49 girls were recently admitted to the WFP-assisted transit/orientation centre against 41 departures.

(3) Djibouti

- (a) The delay in the main karan rains disrupted the normal migration pattern of the rural households in the karan rains dependent zone. The physical condition of livestock is unsatisfactory due to poor pasture and browse. A significant number of animals which conceived in May aborted, resulting in reduced birth rates in late July. Consequently, milk production declined significantly. Food deficit persists, and a rural exodus has recently been observed in urban areas (Alisabieh, Aseyla and even Dikhil) due to successive droughts.
- (b) Both browse and water are very limited and the physical condition of livestock is deteriorating. Weima grazing areas from Alaili Dada to Asgeyla are facing a continuous drought. The water level in Adaylou is below normal. Almost all water catchments are dry. Government intensified water pumping in pastoral wells. Animal production is very limited and people are facing a serious food deficit.
- (c) The decline in animal productivity, together with high staple food prices and closure of the school feeding program, led to a significant food deficit for the poor population in this zone. Tick-borne livestock diseases are increasing, particularly amongst camels. The livestock department is trying to contain the outbreak.

(4) Eritrea

- (a) The Famine Early Warning System Network (FEWS-Net) indicated that favourable rains improved the food security outlook. The “kremti” summer rain has been performing well since its onset in all the kremti rain dependent areas. Agricultural activities are overall off to a good start, but the shortage of tractors in some sub-zones of Gash-Barka limits planting operations. Although ground meteorological data indicate that rainfall in June had been below average in Debub zone, cumulative rainfall has been adequate for field preparation, planting and the growth of long-cycle crops. Pastures are beginning to regenerate in areas that had been hard hit by the long dry spell between September and May, and pastoralist terms of trade are slowly improving. However, the full recovery of pastoralist livelihoods will require successive seasons of good pasture conditions. A recent FEWS-Net field observation indicated that many pastoralists in Gash-Barka are past the point where recovery is possible.
- (b) Cereal prices are currently very high, more than twice their average in some areas, but if rains continue through September, a good kremti harvest could reduce prices after September.
- (c) Pasture and water conditions have improved with the current rains and should help livestock recover from the long dry spell. Already, livestock prices have been rising in some markets and there have been slight gains in pastoralists’ terms of trade. International organizations and NGOs reported that their food donations were blocked at the port of Massawa since early July. These consignments are being detained by Eritrean authorities since the government introduced a law, which obliges NGOs to pay taxes on food aid and other donations they import into the country. Negotiations are underway to get the donations released without tax payment.
- (d) WFP commitment coverage for all operations has remained unchanged: The coverage for EMOP 10261.01 has reached approximately USD 60 million or 80 percent of the total cost to WFP. Coverage for the PRRO 10192.0 remains at USD 44.1 million representing 85 percent of operational requirements. The contributions registered under the PRRO 10192.1, whose implementation is to start on 1 September, stands at approximately USD 42.6 million, representing 20 percent of the total cost of the project.

(5) Ethiopia

- (a) The long Meher rainy season has started in all regions that normally receive it. It started on time in most parts of Tigray and Amhara Regions although with varying intensity, as well as in Oromiya Region, except in the lowland areas of East and West Hararghe, where either the absence or insufficient rainfall have been reported. Overall, the rainfall in Oromiya Region has been reported as satisfactory. The Meher rains have started on time in the middle of June in the highland and midland areas of Southern Nations, Nationalities and Peoples Region (SNNPR). However, in the lowland areas their onset was delayed. The short Kremt rains have started in Jijiga and Shinille zones of Somali Region. These rains are only received in these two zones. In Somali region, rainfall has reportedly been light however, and not all districts have yet received rain. The Karma rains were expected in Afar in the first decade of July but were delayed and have started only recently in all the zones of Afar, except in Zone 2.
- (b) Relief and Safety Net food distributions are on going in Amhara, Oromiya, Southern Nations, Nationalities and Peoples Region (SNNPR) and Tigray. Food aid distributions have improved the food security situation in most of the hot spot districts. Despite these positive developments, the lowland areas of East Hararghe zone (i.e. Bedeno, Girawa, Goro Gutu, Alanaya districts) of Oromiya, the lowland areas of Sidama zone, Wolayta zone, Kembata-Tembaro zone and Alaba special districts of SNNPR remains worrisome. The crops in these areas are dominantly Meher-dependant and the green harvest may be ready only in September. The Federal Disaster Prevention and Preparedness Commission (FDPPC) has allocated 482 of food tons for hot spot districts of SNNPR (Hulla, Dale, Dara Shebedino districts of Sidama and Boloso Sore district of Wolayta zone) for July only and will not send more until the regional DPPC whas submitted the utilization report of the food aid sent previously to the region.
- (c) CONCERN has recently conducted a nutrition survey in Kalu and Dessie Zuria districts of South Wollo zone of Amhara Region. The prevalence of Global Acute Malnutrition (GAM) in Kalu district was reported as 12 percent and Severe Acute Malnutrition (SAM) as 0.7 percent. In Desie Zuria district GAM was 11.3 percent and SAM 1.0 percent. The situation requires close monitoring. Over 400 children are currently registered in CONCERN's Community-based Therapeutic Care programme (CTC). Disaster Prevention and Preparedness Commission (DPPC) has made July food allocations for Kalu and Dessie Zuria districts and distributions are currently on going.

(6) Rwanda

- (a) During the past week, 105 asylum seekers from DR Congo arrived at Nkamira transit camp. Kiziba camp's population increased, due to births and family re-unions, to 18,425. Currently Rwanda shelters 44,855 Congolese refugees.
- (b) The voluntary repatriation of Burundian refugees continues. A total of 520 refugees went back to Burundi and none entered Rwanda. Burundian refugee population is now 6,120 of whom 3,955 are in Nyamure, 985 in Gikonko and 1,180 in Kigeme camps.
- (c) The WFP provided monthly food distribution was completed in Nkamira camp with 18 tons distributed to 1,010 refugees. Food was also distributed to 18,425 people in Kiziba camp. A 15-day ration comprising 6 tons of mixed food commodities was distributed to 955 people in Gikonko transit camp.
- (d) Some 135 returnees crossed from DRC to Rwanda through Cyangugu and 111 others via Gisenyi, bringing the total to 244. They were transported to their respective places of origin after receiving a one-month reduced returnee food package from WFP. Presently, returnees cannot be given the originally planned three-month food package due to pipeline problems.

(7) Somalia

- (a) An agreement has been reached with community leaders and Somalia's Transitional Federal Government to allow for the release of the WFP-chartered vessel, its 10-member crew and its cargo of 850 MT of food aid that was hijacked in June. However, by Thursday, 11 August the vessel had not been released. Last week, WFP sent two shipments of food to Somalia to ensure that its operations in the country would continue and that tsunami beneficiaries would not suffer as a result of the hijacking.

(8) Sudan

- (a) Insecurity and attacks on humanitarian aid workers, convoys and vehicles persist in various parts of the Darfurs. In one incident, six gunmen stopped four WFP staff in two vehicles while they were travelling from Habilah to Geneina via Mornie. The bandits, who were in military attire, stole equipment, money and personal belongings from the staff. They also damaged ICT equipment. None of the staff were injured.
- (b) In South Darfur, increased tensions have been reported in Western Jebel Marrah, specifically in Sorrong village and surroundings, after a disagreement between two senior Sudan Liberation Army (SLA) Commanders. On 7 August, several gunshots, confirmed by civilians, could be heard in Sorrong village and surroundings 10 kilometres away from Golo town. WFP is closely monitoring the situation in light of airdrops taking place in Golo.
- (c) The security situation in Sudan following the death of Sudan's Vice President Dr. John Garang had an impact on deliveries as certain logistical hubs were closed during the week. Commodities allocated for the Khartoum warehouse were re-routed to El Obeid.
- (d) The SLA's restriction on national NGOs and subsequent restrictions on humanitarian access to Zam Zam camp in North Darfur by national NGOs is still unresolved. High-level negotiations between OCHA and SLA are ongoing.
- (e) During the week, WFP's security officer in El Fasher North Darfur and the Area Office Programme Officer met SLA representatives to discuss safe passage of WFP's fleet for WFP/ Action Contre la Faim (ACF) distributions in Korma locality in the coming week. The Commander gave his assurance that the drivers will not be harassed by the SLA.
- (f) Some level of planting has been reported across the three Darfur states, especially in North Darfur where farmers have been weeding earlier than last year due to the abundance of rain in the region. In addition, there is evidence of large areas of planting around the region, including the edges of internally displaced persons (IDPs) camps. While it is still too early to predict the duration of the rains and subsequent harvest, early indicators are promising.
- (g) WFP dispatched 11,630 tons of commodities to the Darfurs during the first week of August. Heavy rains delayed turnaround times at the start of August and further delays in turnaround times are expected if heavy rains continue throughout the month. At this stage, transporters continue to access Nyala, South Darfur via El Fasher, North Darfur since the El Obeid-Nyala route is difficult due to road conditions. Access to Geneina was limited during the week due to the same reasons.
- (h) Transporters have created their own fuel depots in El Obeid to counter insufficient fuel supplies within the Darfurs, particularly in El Fasher, North Darfur. In addition, some transporters have increased the range of trucks used for deliveries to the Darfurs, using ones that have larger fuel tanks.
- (i) WFP delivered 1,270 tons of food into Darfur via airlifts and airdrops during the first week of August, representing 14 percent of the plan for August including some 760 tons of food that were airlifted from Al Khufra, Libya. Cargo deliveries have benefited slightly from Jet A1 fuel supplies, although delays in road deliveries of jet fuel to El Obeid continue to result in some flight cancellations.

- (j) General food distributions were completed in Mornie, West Darfur. Some 91,853 beneficiaries received a two-month ration for July and August.
- (k) A post-distribution monitoring exercise in UmTajok and Kerenik areas in Geneina locality found that most beneficiaries received a balanced food basket. However, some under-scooping was identified for cereals. Approximately 2,194 beneficiaries did not receive July rations as they were cut off from assistance due to an overflowing wadi. Recommendations of the monitoring team are currently being discussed with Cooperating Partner (CP) Sudanese Red Crescent for immediate action.
- (l) WFP is preparing to assist up to 684 families affected by floods following heavy rains in El Fasher on 3 August. SRC has estimated that 2,000 families have been affected.
- (m) WFP and its CP held a workshop on 4 August to discuss re-registration and distribution with community leaders from El Geneina IDP camps. The group reached a consensus that re-registration was necessary in order to account for new arrivals as well as those no longer present. The representatives agreed to initiate an information campaign to share the relevant information with community members.
- (n) Pipeline breaks of 42,111 tons of food between July and December 2005 have been prevented due to procurement of commodities began in March/April.
- (o) As of 5 August, the emergency operation still faces a USD 161 million shortfall (29 percent) out of a total value of USD 562 million. Cash contributions are urgently needed to overcome this shortfall, which includes outstanding internal cash loans representing USD 33.5 million at full cost recovery and 12,647 tons borrowed from other operations in Sudan.
- (p) The Special Operation for logistics support in Darfur continues to face a shortfall of USD 23 million. The procurement of additional long-haul trucks is on hold until funds are made available.
- (q) WFP-HAS still faces severe funding shortfalls which have led to the cancellation of non-food item deliveries in June, despite the start of the rainy season when demand for air deliveries increases. WFP is also unable at this stage to activate the fourth helicopter in Darfur. The funding shortfall remains critical at USD 15 million out of total requirements of USD 24 million in 2005. To ensure continued air services through the rainy season in Sudan, the operation urgently requires an initial USD 5 million.

(9) Tanzania

- (a) According to preliminary figures, 5,399 refugees returned to their home countries in August. This is the highest monthly repatriation figure since September 2004. Refugees have reacted positively to the successful election process in Burundi to date, and this has provided an incentive for increased repatriation.
- (b) WFP is currently providing refugees with a general distribution ration equivalent to 1,399 Kcal, or 67 percent of the approved ration level (a slight increase compared to June and July). Due to improvements in the food pipeline, however, WFP will resume distribution of 100 percent maize rations from 15 August 2005. Rations of other commodities will also increase and assuming timely arrival of incoming shipments, it is anticipated that between 86 - 93 percent of the normal ration can be provided between 15 August and the end of October 2005.
- (c) General food distribution continues to reach 397,473 refugees. WFP continues to implement therapeutic, supplementary and camp-based hospital feeding with 100 percent ration levels. However, due to resource shortages, food-for-work (FFW) and food-for-training (FFT) activities in the host communities surrounding the camps remain suspended.
- (d) While the pipeline situation for the coming six months has improved, WFP is not yet in a

position where full rations can be provided. Significant shortfalls in the first half of 2006 also need to be addressed.

(10) Uganda

- (a) The security situation in northern Uganda remained unpredictable, especially in Kitgum and Pader districts. LRA rebels are reportedly moving in small groups stealing crops from fields round the camps.
- (b) WFP food distribution continues to reach 1.4 million displaced persons, 192,000 refugees and other vulnerable persons. During the past week, WFP distributed 3,750 tons of relief food assistance to 394,000 persons including IDPs sheltering in camps in Gulu, Kitgum, Pader and Lira districts, refugees, children in nutrition centres and other vulnerable persons.
- (c) Under the WFP/FAO partnership providing support to formerly displaced persons who have voluntarily returned to their homes areas, 8,700 households received seeds and agricultural tools in Katakwi and Lira districts during the past week.
- (d) Data collection for the Comprehensive Food Security and Vulnerability Assessment commenced this month. The exercise is being conducted in partnership with the Makerere University Institute of Public Health that will collect data in West-Nile, northern, northeastern, Karamoja region and eastern Uganda, while the Faculty of Agriculture (Department of Agribusiness and Economics) will cover the west, southwest and the central regions. The sample will be drawn from 24 districts and 280 sub-counties; 10 households will be interviewed (2,800 in total) in each sub-county.
- (e) WFP faces a shortfall of 28,927 tons of food commodities (19,300 tons cereals, 3,919 tons pulses, 5,690 tons fortified blended foods and 19 tons vegetable oil) with a funding gap of USD 14 million, required to maintain the food pipeline necessary to continue providing relief assistance to IDPs and refugees through January 2006. Unless new contributions are confirmed urgently the nutritional status of 1.4 million IDPs in northern Uganda, mostly women and children, will be jeopardized.

(D) West Africa: (1) Chad (2) Cote d'Ivoire (3) Guinea (4) Liberia (5) Mali (6) Niger

(1) Chad

- (a) The security situation remains relatively calm in and around the refugee camps, with some minor incidents reported which had no negative impact on humanitarian operations. Reported tension between refugees from Iridimi and local populations from Erre village (Iriba) last week was resolved following mediation efforts by local authorities and humanitarian actors. The incident also led to the establishment of a Vigilance and Conflict Prevention Committee, composed of 15 persons from each side, to ensure peaceful cohabitation between both populations.
- (b) There remain difficulties of access to central camps due to swollen rivers on the Ouaddi Moura
- (c) The overall nutrition situation is stable in all camps despite the rainy season. Latest nutritional screening (exhaustive weight/height) indicates a global acute malnutrition of about 12.5 percent in Oure Cassoni, 12-15 percent in Djabal, and 12-15 percent in Touloum and Iridimi. Given these results and other nutrition indicators from the nutritional centres, it was recommended to suspend blanket supplementary feeding in all the camps. However, blanket supplementary feeding will continue for local populations in the targeted zones.
- (d) The target estimated caseload as agreed by WFP and UNHCR stands at 198,500 refugees, pending further regularisations by registration committees.

- (e) WFP completed general food distributions in southern and central camps, providing complete rations with a 2,070 Kcal/person/day intake. Distributions in northern camps are expected to commence on 15 August. WFP food-for-work activities are progressing smoothly in the zones of Bahai and Iriba. WFP and CARE are preparing to conduct a second distribution of sorghum to the local populations in Touloum, Iridimi and Amnabak as of 15 August. The next blanket supplementary feeding distribution for the local population is expected to take place on 14 August in villages surrounding Bredjing and Treguine camps. Distribution partners for villages near Farchana camps are yet to be identified.
- (f) During the month of July, WFP Humanitarian air services flew 172 hours and served a total of 1,384 passengers to the destinations of Abéché, Bahai, Goz Beida, Adre, Koukou Angarana, Iriba, and N'Djamena. Main users include: International NGOs, UN Agencies, Diplomatic Corps, Government Counterparts and other humanitarian actors.
- (g) Convoy W009, carrying some 1,400 tons of wheat and 4 Wiikhalls for the Sudan operation ex. Libyan corridor, is currently blocked in Biltine (95 km away from Abéché). Discussions are underway with local authorities and the Government to obtain the authorisation to move the trucks and deliver the food to Abéché as soon as possible.
- (h) WFP's Goodwill Ambassador, Ms. Lauren Bush, visited Chad from 3 to 10 August. The mission also met with local authorities in Abéché and Iriba.

(2) Cote d'Ivoire

- (a) WFP is closely monitoring the situation in Cote d'Ivoire as the country prepares for the October 2005 elections. This could result in adjustments of the current operations and requirements in the region to ensure WFP is adequately prepared to face any situation arising from the outcome of the October elections.
- (b) Voluntary repatriation of Liberian refugees from Tabou continues with the assistance of UNCHR. The volunteers are coming mainly from surrounding villages and not from the transit camp.
- (c) During the reporting period (August 4–10), 118 tons of various food commodities were distributed to over 8,300 people.
- (d) A joint WFP/OCHA/UNICEF/WHO mission to IDPs sites in M'bahiakro, Prikro, Raviart and Boli will take place on 15 August. WFP is currently providing general rations to these populations, however this assistance might come to an end based on the results of the mission.
- (e) If the situation in Cote d'Ivoire remains stable, no major pipeline breaks are anticipated before the end of the year. However, given the inevitable long supply chain lead-times involved (from 5 to 6 months to procure, transport and make food available at sub-office levels), additional contributions should be confirmed as soon as possible to avoid possible pipeline breaks in early 2006.

(3) Guinea

- (a) During the reporting period (25 July – 7 August) 1,697 Liberian refugees were voluntarily repatriated. Since the beginning of the repatriation campaign in November 2004, around 15,300 Liberians have returned home. Progress has been slower than planned resulting in a higher refugee caseload than was anticipated. Guinean refugee camps now host over 61,000 individuals who are currently being assisted by WFP; 3,348 are from Ivory Coast and the remainder from Liberia.
- (b) During the reporting period, approximately 32,000 beneficiaries received 390 tons of food in Guinea. WFP in Guinea continues to face a food shortage over the next six months; in particular, a shortfall of 192 MT of pulses is expected.

(4) Liberia

- (a) As of 9 August 2005, 234,925 IDPs and Liberian refugees have been repatriated and reintegrated. This includes 35,091 Liberian returnees and 199,834 IDPs since the beginning of the exercises in October and November 2004, respectively.
- (b) During the reporting period (31 July – 6 August), over 63,700 beneficiaries received 612 tons of food in Liberia. In particular, 39,465 beneficiaries were reached through the Emergency School Feeding programme and approximately 13,000 IDPs and Refugees received over 450 mt of food.
- (c) During the week, several convoys, with a total of 2,022 returnees, from Guinea, Ghana, Ivory Coast, and Sierra Leone, were received in, Cape Mount, Lofa, Maryland, and Montserado counties. WFP distributed a total of 67 tons of assorted relief food commodities as 1st tranche ration to the resettled returnees.
- (d) Distribution of the second tranche two-months food ration to returnees and IDP, which completes the four-months resettlement food package, continued in Montserado, Bong, Bomi, Capemount, Gbarpolu, Grand Gedeh and Lofa counties. During the period under review, 6,611 beneficiaries received 220 tons of food.
- (e) Although the WFP food Pipeline for Liberia remains stable with no major breaks expected until December 2005, given inevitable long supply chain lead-times, additional funding should be resourced as soon as possible to ensure timely procurement of commodities for the distributions planned beginning of 2006.

(5) Mali

- (a) WFP is about to approve a budget revision to the current Emergency Operation (EMOP) in order to provide supplementary feeding to support 175,000 children living in the most vulnerable regions of Mali who are not targeted by food distributions undertaken in response to the 2004 drought and locust crisis. This intervention aims at reducing acute malnutrition levels and preventing a further deterioration of the nutritional status.

(6) Niger

- (a) According to the Government's National Early Warning system, the number of people in Niger in urgent need of food aid is 2.65 million. WFP, the Government and the NGO partners are coordinating efforts in order to reach all 2.65 million people in August. In September, WFP will conduct a second distribution to the 1.7 million most food insecure beneficiaries.
- (b) For the first round of general distributions, WFP food will reach 1.85 million beneficiaries and the rest will be covered by the Government or by the NGOs PLAN and Catholic Relief Services (CRS). General distributions by ABC Ecologie in Tillaberi, World Vision in Maradi and PDR/ADM in Keita have begun this week.
- (c) A total of 18 IFRC trucks have arrived in Niamey by airlift and a total of 50 more will arrive by sea in about three weeks. WFP's role will be to coordinate optimal usage of the trucks by identifying cargo to be transported and prioritizing shipments and routes. Between 10-15 trucks will immediately be put into service in Tahoua for food aid distributions.
- (d) As planned in the EMOP, WFP will conduct a large household survey towards the end of the lean season to re-assess the situation. This information will be complemented by the results of a joint FAO/CILSS/WFP/FEWS-NET Food and Crop Supply Assessment Mission that will take place during the month of October.
- (e) Over 200,000 US dollars has been donated by private individuals from around the world

to WFP's operation in Niger through WFP's website. The current shortfall of WFP's operation is 32.8 million US dollars, corresponding to 42,990 tons of food.

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

(1) Angola

- (a) WFP has completed the construction of a wooden bridge over the Luvu River in Moxico Province, which will support trucks with a gross weight of 30 tons. The bridge will enable WFP's cooperating partner (MEDAIR) to extend distribution points closer to beneficiaries in the province.
- (b) Despite recent donations, Angola's Protracted Relief and Recovery Operation (PRRO 10054.2) "Support to Return and Resettlement" continues to be critically under funded. Currently, 14,000 tons of mixed commodities, valued at USD9.2 million, are needed to meet distribution needs. While reduced rations have already been implemented, WFP will be forced to introduce additional cuts due to major commodity shortfalls.

(2) Lesotho

- (a) During 3 to 9 August, WFP and cooperating partners distributed food to approximately 13,300 beneficiaries. While WFP had planned to meet the needs of 124,000 people enrolled in various feeding programmes, corn-soya-blend (CSB) shortfalls have forced WFP to suspend food distributions to 14,000 children in the food-for-education project this month.

(3) Malawi

- (a) There were significant increases in maize prices in the majority of local markets during July. This development is likely to increase the risk of food insecurity for many households. Market prices for maize are 28 percent higher compared to those in July 2004. WFP is reviewing the need to increase the amount of food it plans to distribute in Malawi up to the next harvest.
- (b) The International Monetary Fund (IMF) approved a USD55.9 million aid-package to the country's Poverty Reduction Growth Facility. The funds will go towards supporting Malawi's programme of economic reform and poverty reduction.
- (c) During 4 to 10 August, WFP dispatched approximately 1,500 tons of food to cooperating partners for subsequent distributions.
- (d) The UN system in Malawi is in the process of preparing a Donor Alert. The overall purpose of the document is to alert the wider international community of the seriousness of the food insecurity in Malawi and raise funds for a comprehensive approach to address the situation. Specifically, support will be requested to enable agencies to procure food, agricultural inputs (seeds, fertilizers) and specialized nutrition supplies during the critical period from October 2005 to March 2006. The response will also be taken as an opportunity to reach many people with HIV/AIDS prevention messages, particularly on the policy of zero tolerance of sexual exploitation and abuse during food distribution. This intervention will be financed internally by the UN system, and will be jointly executed by WFP, UNICEF, UNFPA and UNAIDS. FAO has reported that the crisis in Malawi is critical, and estimates that approximately 4.2 million people are in need of urgent assistance.

(4) Mozambique

- (a) WFP's pipeline shortfalls are having a critical impact on beneficiary distributions. In Tete

Province (Changara District) there are reports of an increase in school dropouts and increased cases of malnutrition have been reported in health clinics. WFP recently completed an assessment in western Tete Province and discovered a devastating combination of chronic poverty and diminished food resources. WFP's lack of sufficient commodities continues to exacerbate the food security situation in vulnerable areas of the country.

(5) Swaziland

- (a) The National Maize Corporation (NMC) has proposed a reduction in the price of maize from E950.00 (USD142.00) to E625.00 (USD93.00). According to the local media the NMC is negotiating with the Ministry of Agriculture so that the country's maize marketing price is on a par with that of South Africa.
- (b) During 2 to 8 August, WFP distributed food to just under 13,600 people with the assistance of cooperating partners.
- (c) WFP distributed blankets and clothing worth USD120,000 to six major hospitals in the country on 9 August 2005. The items were donated to WFP following appeals by the country office for non-food items to cater to the needs of the poor and elderly. In an address at the handing over ceremony, a member of Swaziland's royal family thanked WFP and the Church of Latter Day Saints for their timely and generous donation.

(6) Zambia

- (a) According to reports from the media, WFP's cooperating partners and field monitors, the food security situation continues to deteriorate. Many districts and non-governmental consortiums are carrying out independent studies in order to triangulate the results of the national Vulnerability Assessment Committee (VAC) findings.
- (b) The government's Disaster Mitigation and Management Unit has prepared a Cabinet Memorandum describing the extent of the food security problem based on the VAC's reports and are recommending an official government appeal. The final appeal remains with the cabinet for approval.
- (c) The US Government, National Aids Council and the Ministry of Health have disclosed their operational plans under the Emergency Plan for the 2006 fiscal year. Significant resources have been allotted to promote the provision of antiretroviral treatment (ARVT) and care services. In addition, the government has released official guidelines for the provision of free ARVT. It is expected that the decision to provide ARVT services without charge, will enable large numbers of malnourished and under-nourished HIV infected people to begin treatment, which will raise the numbers of those in need of nutritional support.
- (d) Major pipeline commodity shortfalls for the approved Country Programme and PRRO in Zambia will begin at the end of August. Currently there is no vegetable oil in country and limited stocks of cereals and HEPS. Although recent contributions have been received these are largely in-kind and unlikely to arrive until the end of the 2005. Cash contributions are urgently required to provide food for September distributions.

(7) Zimbabwe

- (a) The food security situation in much of the country continues to worsen. Availability of maize grain through either the Grain Marketing Board (GMB) or the parallel market is sparse. Assessment teams in Matabeleland have reported that people are reportedly sleeping outside GMB depots, hoping to be the first to buy the commodity, should it arrive. In Masvingo, 83 percent of the villages visited revealed the complete

non-availability of maize. Villagers in one ward indicated they acquire small amounts of maize grain from a local, food-for-work irrigation scheme, while in another, villagers were reportedly buying maize hulls (normally used for poultry feed) from the GMB mill, and are milling the hulls to add to their inadequate food supplies. Reports from Manicaland reveal that private traders are not selling grain openly, since the police launched a crack down on the open market, while two districts reported that only maize meal is available at retail outlets.

- (b) To cope with the maize deficit, villagers in one district of Mashonaland reported increased consumption of wild food and vegetation. The sale of marula nuts and grass for thatching is common in Tsholotsho District (Matabeleland), as a means of raising money to buy food, while elsewhere in the province there are limited opportunities for casual jobs, which are usually paid in either cash or grain and serve as the major source of income for the poor.
- (c) Two of the main indicators of economic welfare in Zimbabwe, which WFP routinely monitors, are showing continued declines. The price of maize in Harare has reached ZWD4,000/kg (USD0.29), an increase of 370 percent compared to August 2004. In Bulawayo and Mutare, the open market price of maize increased to ZWD3400/kg (USD0.19), an increase of 300 percent. In the Masvingo market, for the third week running, no maize grain was available, although maize meal was on offer at elevated prices. These prices, indicative of the growing scarcity of maize, are unaffordable to growing numbers of households. Further, the parallel market rate for the Zimbabwe dollar has fallen to ZWD40,000:USD1, representing a depreciation of about one-third over the past month. The official UN rate of exchange for August 2005 is ZWD17,500:USD1.00.
- (d) Food distributions and monitoring of the needs of people affected by the urban "clean up" operations continued over the week. A distribution in Epworth, a suburb of Harare, provided 50 kg maize meal and 4 litres vegetable oil to 350 households, while distribution of beans was postponed due to late arrival. During July, the International Organization for Migration (IOM) and its partners distributed food to 66,000 beneficiaries. Distribution plans for the first two weeks of August are to provide food to 60,000 people.
- (e) WFP representatives visited affected areas around Harare on 4 August, but were denied access to Hopley Farm, where previous residents of Caledonia transit camp are now housed. Following discussions with government officials, authorization for visits and distributions were secured and will take place during the second week of August. In Hatcliffe Extension - the displaced people were housed at Caledonia camp and then returned to Hatcliffe with the promise of receiving plots of land for housing. Most of the displaced are still residing in the open with some living in shelters built from plastic and wood. Displaced families located at a demolished squatter camp in Dzivarasekwa Extension have been residing in the open for one month and reportedly have not received any form of assistance to date. WFP working closely with IOM to ensure assistance reaches this vulnerable group, most of which are of Malawian, Zimbabwean and Mozambican origin.
- (f) WFP representatives also travelled to Mutare on 5 August to visit areas hosting the urban affected. At the Sakubva High Density suburb many households are still living in the open and are yet to receive assistance from "Operation Garikai", the government's planned recovery effort which seeks to provide legal, adequate and standard affordable housing and livelihood means throughout the country. At a transit compound at Tsvingwe Township in Mutasa district, 21 stand holders and 28 ex-lodger households are now housed in rural district council premises on a temporary basis.
- (g) In Bulawayo Urban, 27 people, including 16 children, who were remnants of those at

the recently established and then dismantled transit camp, have resettled in tents a few kilometres from the site where new houses for the displaced are being constructed. WFP is working with the churches, the Zimbabwe Red Cross Society and World Vision to ensure that the displaced in and around Bulawayo receive essential assistance.

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

(1) Bangladesh

- (a) Flooding continues in parts of the country, but the situation remains within the capacity of the Government & local relief agencies to respond. WFP is expecting to receive 3,765 tons of wheat from Government of Bangladesh stocks shortly. The wheat will be distributed among the flood victims under recovery phase.
- (b) Daily over 600,000 primary school students continue to receive High Energy Biscuits as part of WFP Emergency Operation (EMOP) in the country. Food-for-work (FFW) activities are ongoing in four districts through various micro-level livelihood activities.
- (c) In July, as part of the EMOP, a total of 470 tons of wheat was distributed among 23,500 project participants.

(2) Indonesia

- (a) During the reporting period (July 24 - Aug 11), a series of earthquakes occurred in WFP areas of operation, with a maximum magnitude of 6.0 in North Sumatra. WFP Nias reported several earthquakes with magnitudes ranging from 4.8 to 5.2. No damage has been reported. After a riot on 18 July, police reminded all international NGOs and UN agencies not to travel after dark in South Nias district. Security is still a concern in the south of the island, especially given forthcoming elections.
- (b) WFP and Save the Children (SC) have completed the distribution for July for 111,435 IDPs in Lhokseumawe, Aceh Utara, and Bireuen. SC has submitted a distribution plan for 111,015 IDPs for the month of August during the last week of July. During the last week of July, WFP and SC carried out food distribution in Langsa and Aceh Tamiang, reaching 3,200 beneficiaries as well as 1,570 in Medan. Also in July, WFP assisted the total of 10,335 beneficiaries living in 40 IDP camps in 6 sub-districts, namely Gunung Sitoli, Lahewa, Mandrehe, Bawolatu, Idano Gawo and Teluk Dalam.
- (c) In terms of School Feeding, distribution of fortified biscuits was made to 4,340 students in 28 schools in Aceh Barat during 1- 5 August. In Lhokseumawe, delivery of the total 53 tons of biscuits for all 67 schools has been completed, reaching 23,735 primary school children. On 4 August, WFP started delivery of biscuits in Nias Utara district for the "Back to School" campaign that WFP is jointly developing with UNICEF; Biscuits will continue to be delivered to the different sub districts on a daily basis.
- (d) On 30 July, WFP delivered 1 ton of rice to Oxfam in Lahewa, Nias Utara, for the cash-and food-for-work (FFW) pilot project; WFP is also negotiating with the NGO ACTED to support FFW for 500 people for 30 days, also in Lahewa Sub-district, to rehabilitate water & sanitation systems.

(3) Korea (DPR)

- (a) All 19 WFP-supported Local Food Production factories operated during the reporting period (August 6-12). Three biscuit factories resumed production after they had received new distribution plans and production for the period came to some 1,350 tons or 100 percent of the Emergency Operation's (EMOP) weekly requirement.
- (b) With the arrival in August of cereals purchased from WFP's Immediate Response Account (IRA), WFP will be able to provide cereal rations to all beneficiaries of the

EMOP, with the exception of 900,000 members of poor urban households and elderly people. However, without new donations this number will increase to 2.9 million in November, including nurseries, kindergartens, primary schools, pregnant and nursing women (PNW), poor urban household and elderly people. In November and December, WFP will only be able to assist 50 percent of our beneficiaries with cereals.

- (c) The shortfall of oil, which began in March, is still severe and in August and September up to 2.7 million elderly people, pregnant/nursing women, and children in nurseries, kindergarten and hospitals will go without this valuable commodity. WFP has also been forced to cut distributions of pulses completely to all the EMOP's beneficiary groups in August and September.

(4) Myanmar

- (a) WFP's Executive Director Mr. Morris visited Myanmar from 1 to 4 August to visit WFP programme activities in Magway. He discussed some of the operational problems being faced by WFP and suggested solutions. Discussion topics included the Government facilitating the movement of rice to project areas; 10 percent tax on local procurement of rice; access of humanitarian agencies operating in Myanmar; and also the review of restrictive policies in trading and movement of food and people that directly affect food security. During his visit, Mr. Morris visited Sin Kyo village of Magway Division, met with all the NGOs partners, observed food distribution for primary school children and vulnerable groups, visited the water pond renovated through food-for-work and people living with HIV/AIDS beneficiaries in Pakokku.
- (b) The price of rice increased to more than 100 percent in the WFP project areas, due to multiple reasons, such as, the shortage of rice in the market; the drought like situation due to delayed rainfall and the severe restriction placed on the movement of rice into the region. In response to gauge the impact and the coping mechanisms of the local population, an inter-agency food security survey was carried out in 26 village tracts. WFP is in the process of analyzing the data collected by the partners and the final report is due for the second half of August.
- (c) WFP distributed 120 tons of rice, 12 tons of pulses and 540 litres of oil to 9,600 beneficiaries including Tuberculosis patients, participants of food-for-training (FFT) and food-for-work (FFW). In Magway, a total of 580 tons of food was distributed to approximately 42,500 beneficiaries.
- (d) Under WFP's PRRO, Assistance to Returnees and Vulnerable Groups in North Rakhine State and Magway Division (Dry Zone) of Myanmar, beneficiary identification for vulnerable group feeding is currently being carried out in 127 village tracts aiming for the food distribution during the lean period. In July, 200 tons of rice was delivered. Transportation of rice continues to be a problem, and WFP therefore has not been able to distribute food to the primary school children since the beginning of the academic year. Attendance rates have therefore dropped.
- (e) Under the new phase of WFP's Emergency Operation (EMOP) Emergency Food Assistance to Ex-Poppy Farmers in Northern Shan State, field level agreements with cooperating partners are being finalized and signed. WFP and NGO partners are jointly undertaking baseline surveys for the implementation of activities in the new area of the operation.

(5) Sri Lanka

- (a) On 7 August, Prime Minister Mahinda Rajapaksa was announced as the SLFP candidate for the presidential election which may take place later this year.
- (b) On 3 August, several hundreds of people in Ampara protested against the LTTE's

perceived continuing abduction of civilians. Tensions and violence have increased both in Jaffna and the East. The SLA imposed a continuous curfew from 4th August 8.30 pm till 6th August 5.00 am. All UN staff members were advised to restrict their movements during the curfew and not to report to work on the 5th. In Kilinochchi, internal LTTE checkpoints have become stricter, and recently WFP vehicles were requested to be searched. Ad hoc checkpoints have been established in Poonahari Division and drivers have been advised to be prepared for newly established checkpoints in this area.

- (c) On 8 August, a meeting was held between WFP and the Ministry of Relief, Rehabilitation and Reconciliation to discuss local procurement of rice. Some 1,800 tons of rice are now ready for transport. Due to a shortage of rice, few areas have been able to do Emergency Operation (EMOP) distributions. A few districts are still struggling to reduce their beneficiary numbers for the 2nd phase of the EMOP, further delaying distributions.
- (d) Food-for-Work (FFW) is now under way in many districts. Nine FFW projects were started in Kilinochchi district. At a meeting held with UNDP Kilinochchi 11 projects in Kilinochchi and Mullaithivu were identified as likely areas of cooperation. UNDP has presented a FFW proposal to WFP Jaffna, aiming at addressing the rehabilitation and the resettlement of 175 displaced families in the North as a result of the conflict. The project is targeting the most vulnerable from the returnees and other families within resettlement communities.

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

(1) Colombia

- (a) The situation is tense but calm in Putumayo after around 1,500 members of a major illegal armed group carried out an offensive in the province, cutting off electricity, blockading main roads and affecting the normal distribution of food and other supplies. Military sources indicate that the situation is under control; no new clashes have been reported; security conditions are normal and all main roads in the province are under surveillance. Food supply deliveries have been re-established and electricity has been restored in the whole province. The Colombian Social Solidarity Network sent emergency assistance to some 10,000 people, especially to inhabitants of the Municipalities of Puerto Guzman, Puerto Asis, Villa Garzón and Orito, that were severely affected by the food blockades and clashes between the Army and the illegal armed rebels. Transport companies have also recommenced their activities. Putumayo is under UN security phase III and all movement for UN staff is restricted in this part of the country.
- (b) New displacements have been reported in the Province of Antioquia. In rural areas of the Municipalities of Cocorná and San Francisco, threats from illegal armed groups to inhabitants of these areas have caused the displacement of at least 50 people during the past few days. Information issued by the local government indicates that if this situation persists, a massive displacement of some 150 families could occur in the upcoming days. This region has been greatly affected by the strong presence of leftist and right wing illegal armed groups and activities such as the cultivation of illicit crops and the use of land mines. In May 2005, some 140 families were forced to flee due to clashes between the Army and illegal armed groups, and similar situations have been reported at least three more times during the past two months. WFP Colombia has implemented food aid activities in this region as part of its Protracted Relief and Recovery Operations (PRRO).
- (c) At least 15 police officers were killed in an ambush perpetrated by a rebel group in rural

areas of the Municipality of Atánquez, Province of Cesar (in nearby areas of the Sierra Nevada region). According to information issued by local authorities, the police officers activated land mines that were previously hidden by the rebels. This part of the country is greatly affected by the presence of leftist and right wing paramilitary groups and is mainly inhabited by indigenous communities. WFP has one Sub Office in this province and implements several food aid activities in this region as part of its PRRO .

- (d) In the Province of Cauca (southwest of the country), at least four police agents were killed and an unknown number of others injured in clashes between the Colombian Army and an illegal armed group. According to a special report issued by the Colombian non-government organization CODHES (Consultancy for Human Rights and Displacement), since 2003 the daily average number of displaced people in Colombia was 850. According to this organization, since 1997 more than 235.000 displaced people have arrived in Bogotá (capital of Colombia) looking for shelter and humanitarian aid. The total number of displaced people in Colombia is estimated between 2.5 and three million.
- (e) In the context of the new PRRO, Assistance to People Displaced by Violence, last week WFP distributed 675 tons in 14 provinces reaching to 126,705 beneficiaries, especially in School Feeding, Nursing and Expectant Mothers, Preschool Feeding and Nutritional Recovery activities.

(2) Cuba

- (a) The volume of water in dams and reservoirs continues to be very low in the eastern provinces of the country. Cuban authorities continue transporting water via tank trucks to ensure the supply of water to inhabitants. Temperatures are foreseen to continue rising and will become hotter than usual in the central and eastern regions during August. A three-month Emergency Operation (EMOP) for Cuba, will reach 773,000 people by providing assistance to vulnerable groups (pregnant and nursing women, children under five years old and elderly people) affected by the drought, with a complementary food ration of rice, beans and vegetable oil. The total cost of this operation will be USD 3,725,522. Distribution of food to beneficiaries in support of the EMOP, has not begun yet. Rice and other commodities, to be distributed under the EMOP, are scheduled to arrive at end of August. Regionally purchased food purchased, to arrive in September, will be distributed under WFP 's Immediate Response Account Emergency Operation, approved on 2 July. The operation aims to reach 110,900 vulnerable people affected by Hurricane Dennis, including in particular pregnant women, children under five years old and elderly people. The total cost of this operation is USD 492,264.

(3) Ecuador

- (a) People living in the Amazon Colombian – Ecuadorian border - are concerned, as new coca plantations fumigations may take place. This area is characterized by poverty and violence, anti drug operations and foreign interest for oil. Fumigation programs will take place as a Colombian strategy to obtain international funding for the Plan Colombia second phase. There is concern that villages such as General Farfán, Puerto Nuevo, La Guinea, Santa Marianita, Puerto Escondido and La Charapa will be contaminated. The Ecuadorian government and several organisations have complained regarding the effects the fumigations, as the health of the population and cattle deteriorates; however, the fumigations will continue. The natural diversity of the region is one of the richest in the world and will also be affected by these fumigations. The Ecuadorian government may appeal to the The Hague International Court and to the World Health Organization if fumigations continue near the border.

- (b) In order to assist the victims of Hurricane Dennis in Cuba, the Government of Ecuador donated 50 tons of food. Private institutions made food and non food contributions. WFP supported the Government of Ecuador with the coordination of the logistics and storage of the commodities. Emergency food rations from the Contingency Fund (WFP/Ministry of Agriculture/Ministry of Welfare/Civil Defense) were also donated.

(4) Guatemala

- (a) The “yellow” alert in the whole country has been lifted as rainfall levels have become normal, according to the National Institute of Seismology, Vulcanology, Meteorology and Hydrology (INSIVUMEH).
- (b) As a compensatory measure, following the controversial approval of the Free Trade Agreement (DR-CAFTA) between the United States and the Central American countries and the Dominican Republic, the Congress of Guatemala approved a Law that provides the national framework for the implementation of the Peace Agreements signed on 29 December 1996. Under the recently approved Law, there is a provision to establish a National Council with representation of signing bodies of the Peace Agreements (Government, guerrilla and civil society), as well as the Ombudsman and UN Resident Coordinator (with voice but non-voting rights). The Council will analyze, express opinions and support all areas related to Peace Agreements, as well as issue periodical reports on advancement and difficulties faced in reaching them.
- (c) Under the regional Protracted Relief and Recovery Operation (PRRO), a total of 29 tons of maize, beans, corn-soya blend and vegetable oil were distributed to community-based centres in the Province of San Marcos for the nutritional recovery of children under five years old and, pregnant and nursing women suffering from acute malnutrition. This food distribution will benefit a total of 345 families (1,725 beneficiaries).

(5) Haiti

- (a) The security situation, which has slightly improved over the past few weeks, continues to be tense and volatile, especially in the area of Port-au-Prince. The entire country remains in UN security phase III. During the past week (August 3-9), 10 Haitian citizens were reported killed in the capital. Reports of kidnappings and kidnapping-linked torture and rape continue to be recorded. However there is a slight reduction of reported abduction cases (11) and notable increase freed victims (9) by MINUSTAH-HNP Forces in Operations. Two cases involved international staff.
- (b) The Provisional Electoral Council (CEP) announced that 412 of the voters registration centres were already established through the country with approximately 1 500 000 citizens registered for their national identification election card. Other registration offices were opened in Bel Air and other sensitive places. During the past week??, minor incidents related to the presence of armed groups occurred against electoral registration sites and functionaries in Jeremie, Les Cayes, Cabaret and Croix de Bouquet. UN troops continue to be intensively involved in clashes with gang members mainly in the sensitive areas of Cite Soleil, Bel Air, Cite Militaire and SHODECOSA, where the WFP Port-au-Prince warehouses are situated. On August 3, in the outskirts of Port-au-Prince, an attempt to kidnap passengers in a vehicle of the French NGO ACTED (French NGO) failed.
- (c) In spite of the improvements, the current security situation continues to have an impact on WFP office and sub office operations. Escorts in support of WFP administrative, monitoring and logistic activities were required due to the tense situation in some areas of Port-au-Prince, such as the Cite Militaire and the area around SHODECOSA. During August 3-9, in support of WFP’s Protracted Relief and Recovery (PRRO) and the

Country Programme (CP), a total of 315 tons of food was delivered to health centres and schools in the West, North and North-East departments and Port-au-Prince and to the various implementing partners of PRRO activities in the North-West and Central Plateau. Food-for-work (FFW) projects in the Northern, North-Eastern and Artibonite departments, approved by the Selection Committee, are under finalization and training sessions are being planned. The implementing of school gardens in different schools located in the North-Eastern Department is being assessed. FFW will be used in support for this activity.

(6) Nicaragua

- (a) Since 28 July, the volcano Concepción in the island of Ometepe located in the Lake Nicaragua, has presented eruptive activity. In addition, seismic activity has been noteworthy. According to local authorities, some 540 people have sought retreat outside their houses. Although the emission of gases and ashes has ceased, the National Institute of Territorial Studies (INETER) does not preclude the possibility of another major earthquake on the island and continues to monitor the seismic activity in the area. The Municipality of Nueva Guinea in the Southern Autonomous Atlantic Region (RAAS), sustained heavy damages on infrastructure and crops after 62 hours of non-stop heavy rains. According to press reports, the situation is now under control and the families are returning to their homes. New waves of protests and demonstrations across the major towns of the country are being forecast for the coming week. Among the reasons are: increased public transport prices, road deteriorations, revision of the minimum salary and the Free Trade Agreement (TLC). WFP continues to monitor the situation.
- (b) A joint mission composed by WFP, the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry (MAGFOR) and local authorities, have initiated a rapid assessment on the situation along Rio Coco located in the border to Honduras in the Municipality of Waspam in the Northern Atlantic Autonomous Region (RAAN) of Nicaragua to confirm the loss of harvest due to rat infestation, pests and flooding. Additionally, crop losses due to recent flooding are being reported along the River Prinzapolka also located in the RAAN. Approximately 10,365 pregnant and lactating women; 11,160 children under two years old; 1,790 vulnerable rural families and 62,065 schoolchildren in the Central and Northern Atlantic Region (RAAN) continue to benefit of food distributions under WFP's Protracted Relief and Recovery Operation (PRRO). Heavy rains continue, especially in the RAAN and have damaged several roads, making access to some areas even more difficult. Accumulated shortfalls of vegetable oil (64 tons) and beans (26 tons) will begin in November and December, respectively. Commodities are required in order to avoid a pipeline break during the last quarter of the year.

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].

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