

World Food Programme Emergency Report 2005
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(A) Highlights

- (a) WFP in Central America is closely monitoring the need for any support that might be required in view of potential indirect consequences of Hurricane Adrian.
- (b) Violent riots in Afghanistan have led to the relocation of international WFP and other UN staff from Jalal Abad to Kabul.
- (c) In response to the displacements of people fleeing from Togo to Benin and Ghana, WFP launched Immediate Response Emergency Operations both in Benin and Ghana during the first week of May. Distributions started the same week from stocks available in-country.
- (d) Assessments by WFP, Action Contre la Faim and others indicate an alarming global acute malnutrition rate in Sania Afandy, South Darfur, and a sharply deteriorating food security situation in central and government-controlled areas in southern Sudan.
- (e) Increased incidents of ambushes along the Ed Daein and Nyala road, South Darfur, resulted in transporters being reluctant to transport food without African Union/military escorts.
- (f) WFP is distributing emergency food to people in Georgia that were affected by floods in the month of April.
- (g) WFP provided food assistance is supporting families affected by EBOLA in Republic of Congo.

(B) Middle East, Central Asia and Eastern Europe: (1) Afghanistan (2) Georgia (3) Kyrgyzstan (4) Libyan Arab Jamahiriya (5) Pakistan (6) Russian Federation (Caucasus) (7) Uzbekistan

(1) Afghanistan

- (a) Throughout the week, the security situation remained volatile following demonstrations prompted by reports of the desecration of the holy Quran in Guantanamo Bay, Cuba.

The violent riots have affected the implementation of humanitarian aid operations in the areas where the demonstrations took place: 79 international UN and NGO workers were re-located from Jalal Abad to Kabul, NGO offices and vehicles were burned and/or damaged in Logar and Wardak and on 13 May, violent demonstrations in Bahrak, Jerum and Kishem districts of Badakshan provinces resulted in the death of 3 people while 13 protesters and 10 policemen were injured. On 16 May an international CARE staff member was kidnapped in Kabul by four armed men.

- (b) During the past week, some 504,625 beneficiaries were assisted with 4,000 tons of food.
- (c) In response to recent floods in Chaghcharan district, Ghor province, WFP will assist 150 affected families with emergency food. WFP Mazar, in collaboration with the Department of Rural Rehabilitation has carried out an assessment of 5 districts in Samangan province that have been affected by recent floods. WFP will contribute to the rehabilitation of infrastructure in these districts through Food-For-Work activities.
- (d) On 16 May, a ceremony was held for the hand over of 18,000 tons of fortified biscuits, valued at USD 19.4 million, to school children in Afghanistan participating in WFP's school feeding programme.

(2) Georgia

- (a) The floods of April, the worst in years, were the result of an unusually heavy snowfall during winter followed by five days of torrential rains. More than 70 villages have been cut off after three main rivers burst their banks, washing away or destroying some 30 bridges, hundreds of homes and thousands of hectares of farmland. Many people in the devastated areas have lost their homes, food stocks and early spring harvests. As flooding continues in the eastern part of the country, official statistics on the numbers of people affected or the value of the losses are not available yet.
- (b) A WFP-led mission visited the worst affected regions of western Georgia from 30 April – 2 May to assess the immediate needs and provide initial recommendations for future rehabilitation. This will include food aid to the displaced population, as well as to families facing the immediate loss of livelihood, including those whose access to markets cannot be immediately re-established. In addition, WFP will assist through Food-For-Work activities aimed at the rehabilitation of damaged infrastructure.
- (c) Since 12 May, WFP has already delivered 20 tons of food to 2,300 people in the villages of Racha-Lechkhumi region that are accessible by road. On 18 May, WFP started airlifting food from Kutaisi airport to five remote villages in Lentekhi and Mestia districts in the Svaneti region, bringing crucial aid to over 3,600 people affected by the floods. Mi-8 transport helicopters, made available by the government of Georgia, will be transporting 30 tons of food including 27 tons of wheat flour, 1.4 tons of vegetable oil and 1.6 tons of sugar to the villages which were cut off following massive floods and landslides.

(3) Kyrgyzstan

- (a) Political turmoil and social unrest in neighbouring Uzbekistan resulted in approximately 500-600 Uzbeks seeking refuge across the border in Kyrgyzstan. The refugees are presently located near the Kyrgyz border towns of Jalal-Abad and Suzak. Most of the 541 asylum seekers are men; with less than a fifth of the total reported to be women and children. The Kyrgyz Department of Migration Service issued temporary cards valid for 10 days. According to UNHCR, the number of registered asylum seekers to date does not include the Uzbeks who have taken refuge with friends and families in Kyrgyzstan and are not registering with local authorities

- (b) UNHCR together with the Kyrgyz Department of Migration Assistance is providing some assistance to the asylum seekers. Relief supplies including 600 blankets, 1,000 jerry cans, 1,000 bars of soap, and 25 bales of clothing have been moved from UNHCR's warehouse in Osh (Kyrgyzstan) and were distributed on location in Jalal-Abad. UNHCR will also be sending 150 tents from its warehouse in Dushanbe, Tajikistan. The UN agency is reportedly engaged in negotiations with the NGO ACTED/Agency for Technical Cooperation and Development, regarding the inclusion of food assistance.
- (c) Following the recent political and social unrest in Kyrgyzstan itself, and the subsequent resignation of the President, an OCHA-led UN interagency needs assessment Mission was formed, which included the participation of WFP. The Mission officially began its assessment on 10 May, and is currently in the final stages of its work.
- (d) Early indications from the Mission are that there is not a current acute food insecurity problem, and the food security status of the population does not differ significantly from the pre-March 2005 period. Structural and chronic food insecurity and poverty within Kyrgyzstan is evident, requiring longer term national planning solutions as well as near term vigilance by the Kyrgyzstan authorities and the international community. The final assessment report is expected in the coming weeks, and the situation continues to be closely monitored.

(4) Libyan Arab Jamahiriya

- (a) Airlifting of food from Kufra (Libya) to El Fasher (Sudan) and Nyala (Sudan) commenced on 7 May with two rotations per day, carrying some 38 tons per rotation. By 19 May some 949 tons of food had been airlifted.
- (b) Delivery of food from Kufra to Chad is ongoing. One convoy with 655 tons of food is underway from Kufra to Chad. Two more convoys will leave Kufra on 21 May.

(5) Pakistan

- (a) A five-member mission of Yemeni government officials and WFP Yemen staff visited Pakistan to study the implementation of the girls' primary education programme, focusing especially on partnerships, database and the role of government.
- (b) Impact assessment studies are being finalized for 'girls' primary education' and 'promoting safe motherhood' activities. Study findings will be shared with cooperating partners and donors in June. Satellite-based communication equipment, the so-called ARGOS, will be installed on a pilot basis in 10 WFP assisted schools in Punjab.
- (c) The girls' primary education programme is facing serious pipeline breaks during the second quarter of 2005. As a result, pupils at several locations did not receive their vegetable oil entitlements. Requirements during the third quarter will be covered from an expected shipment, but large shortfalls are expected again starting in October. The 'creating assets for rural women' activity will also face shortfalls from September.
- (d) WFP organized a simplification and harmonization workshop in Thatta district, Sindh province, further strengthening the collective efforts of UN agencies and cooperating partners, and thus fulfilling WFP's lead role in promoting enhanced collaboration as part of the UNDAF.

(6) Russian Federation (Caucasus)

- (a) Floods and landslides have affected thousands of people in 10 districts in Chechnya. Houses and public utilities were damaged and/or destroyed. WFP, through its cooperating partners, were asked by villages to assist through Food-For-Work. Additional floods are expected in July when snow in the mountains melts.
- (b) In Ingushetia, the IDP centre "Kolos" in Karabulak was flooded affecting some 50

households. WFP's partner, Danish Refugee Council, is currently verifying the exact number of affected persons who will be provided with additional food rations.

(7) Uzbekistan

- (a) Social unrest in Uzbekistan's eastern city of Andijan led to a military crackdown on 13 May. The unrest was sparked by protests related to an ongoing trial of some 23 local businessmen whom have been accused by the Uzbek authorities of Islamic extremism. Protesters expressed frustration over the treatment of prisoners and over broader social problems related to poverty and general under-development. A group of unidentified armed men broke open the Andijan jail, freeing everyone inside, (an estimated 4,000 inmates) including both political prisoners and common criminals.
- (b) Large opposition rallies subsequently took place in Andijan city, with various speakers voicing their dissent. Some of the local government offices were also taken over and occupied by the protesters. Reports are that shooting and a crackdown eventually ensued, leading to hundreds of deaths. Consequently, approximately 500-600 individuals seeking asylum crossed the border into neighbouring Kyrgyzstan
- (c) Turmoil has also been reported in the Uzbek/Kyrgyz border town of Kara-Su (on the Uzbek side of the border), where according to recent media reports rebels have recently taken control.
- (d) While the situation does not appear to be escalating in recent days, WFP is nevertheless taking prudent preparedness actions and is monitoring the situation closely.

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

(1) Burundi

- (a) The President of Burundi and the leader of the only rebel group still outside the peace process, the National Liberation Forces (FNL), have agreed to end all hostilities after talks in Dar es Salaam, Tanzania. A technical team will be set up in less than a month to decide on the mechanism of a permanent ceasefire.
- (b) During the week, WFP distributed some 865 tons of food aid to about 116,875 beneficiaries.
- (c) WFP distribution and monitoring teams have publicly validated beneficiary lists in the communes of Kinyinya and Gisuru (Bubanza province), Busoni (Kirundo province) and Gatara (Kayanza province). The same activity took place in some communes of Kayanza and Ngozi provinces. In Bubanza commune, distribution committees were set up to organize the targeting process whilst in the commune of Bukeye (Muramvya province) a post distribution monitoring took place. Targeted distributions were monitored in Kayokwe and Nyabihanga (Mwaro province) Buyenger (Bururi), Mutimbuzi (Bujumbura rural), Vuziko and Kibago (Makamba) communes.
- (d) Supplementary and Therapeutic Feeding centres were monitored in Kavumu, Mubimbi, Rubirizi, Magara and Gatumba (Bujumbura rural). WFP monitoring teams followed progress of Food-For-Work (FFW) projects in Buhinyuza and Mwakiro communes (Muyinga). In Bugabira (Kirundo), and discussions were held to start FFW activities.
- (e) Some shortfalls of cereals are being experienced at the moment and further deficits are anticipated in June. A major pipeline break will start in August for almost all commodities. There is an urgent need to secure new donor contributions for the period after August.

(2) Congo

- (a) The Ministry of Health confirmed on 17 May that "fièvre émoragique EBOLA" is threatening the Cuvette west region in the north west of the country, especially in Etoumbi village. They declared that 9 persons died from this disease and that two persons are seriously sick; 85 persons, who had contact with the infected persons, are expected to develop the disease shortly have been placed in quarantine in this area, where movements are prohibited.
- (b) Based on the request from the Ministry of Health, WFP provided 95 affected families with food assistance for two weeks. The distribution of assorted commodities was carried out by CARITAS, a local NGO working with the Ministry of Health.

(3) Congo, DR

- (a) A major security incident was the ambush by militiamen of a UN peacekeeping convoy patrolling in Geti, an area located 65 km from Bunia (Ituri district), on Thursday 12 May. A UN peacekeeper was shot dead and six others were seriously wounded. According to the media, the area where the ambush took place was close to the Front Patriotique de Résistance dans l'Ituri (FRPI) stronghold. This militia is reportedly resisting the disarmament, demobilization and reintegration programme initiated in the Ituri district.
- (b) The humanitarian community in Bunia expressed concern regarding the possible deterioration of the humanitarian situation of populations in and around Kagaba, some 37 km from Bunia. The continual movement of persons from Kagaba to areas southwest of the Kagabe and Nombe have been reported since militia attacks on 21 April. This movement, which coincided with the current sowing period, is likely to trigger food insecurity in the region, if no measures are taken on time. Meanwhile, the access by humanitarian workers to the vulnerable population living in this troubled area remains difficult, due to the presence of militiamen.
- (c) In Rutshuru territories, looting of traders' food commodities and other non-food items were once again reported after a temporary lull during the previous week, in addition to clashes involving the Forces Armées de la République Démocratique du Congo (FARDC) troops and May-May militiamen.
- (d) Food security in Uvira and surrounding areas is reportedly threatened by the rise in commodities prices, while the local population has very low purchasing power. According to various local traders, gunmen have erected numerous illegal roads-blocks from Uvira to the main market.
- (e) Reports from Goma indicated the revival of the banana disease in Bashali district, in Masisi territories. Between 50 to 100 ha of banana trees were reportedly damaged by the epidemic. Local authorities requested assistance in stemming the spread of the disease and asked for healthy root stock to replace affected plants. Banana is a staple food in the province.
- (f) WFP implementing partner Action Contre la Faim (ACF) reported a growing malnutrition rate in Lemera, Baraka, Ruzizi Plain and also in Uvira. During the period under review, ACF recorded as many as 66 cases of malnutrition among children. WFP is planning to field a needs assessment mission in these areas in order to come up with a strategy to address food insecurity among the targeted vulnerable groups.

(4) Ethiopia

- (a) Emergency distributions are continuing, with most of the allocations made in April now dispatched. In April a total of over 33,565 tons was allocated for some 2 million beneficiaries (excluding Somali Region, where earlier dispatches have only been 60

percent delivered). Allocations of 72,000 tons have been made for May for 3.8 million beneficiaries, including Somali Region beneficiaries. Under the Productive Safety Net Programme (PSNP), which currently targets some 4.5 million people, some 1 million are currently receiving WFP food transfers for work done on public works schemes. Cash transfers are starting for many beneficiaries in districts designated for cash distributions under the PSNP. In some districts, transfers are partly in cash and partly in food. A certain number of districts under the PSNP are covered by NGOs using both cash and food. Including emergency and PSNP beneficiaries, the aggregate number of beneficiaries in need of food or cash transfers in 2005 has now reached 8.3 million. Comparative figures were 7.8 million in 2004 and 13 million in 2003.

- (b) In districts covered by the PSNP where there are concerns about food security related to the late start of the PSNP, WFP is working with the Food Security Coordination Bureau (responsible for the PSNP) and the Disaster Prevention and Preparedness Commission (DPPC, responsible for the emergency programme) to provide "blanket" supplementary food to the 35 percent of the population considered as especially vulnerable (children under five, pregnant and nursing women, and the elderly). Blanket supplementary distributions had been undertaken for a few of the worst-affected districts in March and April. However, in view of nutrition concerns in many areas, such distributions are being expanded substantially in Oromiya and SNNPR regions.
- (c) Under the current WFP Protracted Relief and Recovery Operation (PRRO) 10362.0, Enabling Livelihood Protection and Promotion, the number of WFP beneficiaries in 2005 is now 4.2 million (2.5 million relief, 1.7 million safety net). Under the relief component of the PRRO, WFP was originally aiming to cover approximately half of the emergency food requirements in Ethiopia in 2005, or 1.7 million. The remaining requirements were expected to be met from bilateral donations to the Government and contributions through NGOs. However, WFP is currently covering 64 percent rather than half of emergency requirements and has increased its relief coverage to 2.5 million beneficiaries. Supplementary food for the joint WFP/UNICEF Enhanced Outreach Strategy/Child Survival Initiative is also included under the PRRO.
- (d) While the original PRRO requirements for 2005 (408,000 tons) are almost fully covered, a contingency mechanism can allow an additional tonnage of up to 165,000 tons to be committed to relief and targeted supplementary feeding. This will allow WFP to expand its coverage to include part of the expected increase in requirements following the mid-year Belg/Gu assessment in June/July.

(5) Rwanda

- (a) The steady flow of refugees from DRC and Burundi continued with 456 new arrivals during the past week. Of the 53,849 refugees in Rwanda, 46,638 are Congolese and 7,211 Burundians.
- (b) The first phase of transferring 3,000 refugees from transit centres to Ngarama camp continued; 514 Congolese were relocated, bringing the total camp population to 2,206. The camp should accommodate up to 10,000 refugees, but not all of the infrastructure necessary to support them is not yet in place.
- (c) Although only few repatriated in the recent past, 126 refugees spontaneously returned to DRC from Nygatara transit centre.
- (d) Due to pipeline breaks, the WFP supported returnee repatriation food package has been reduced from a three-month to a one-month ration; however, this will be reviewed as soon as the food availability improves.

(6) Somalia

- (a) The security of humanitarian aid workers continues to be an issue of concern in most parts of Somalia particularly in Bay and Bakol regions, South Somalia, where the two opposing factions of the Rahanweyn Resistance Army (RRA) are planning to compete for control of the City of Baidoa, a potential future seat of the Transitional Federal Government.
- (b) Heavy localized rainfall in the Northeast has replenished the vegetation of most parts of the autonomous region of Puntland while also damaging bridges and various points along the main Bossaso–Garowe highway. A good ‘Gu’ season performance is expected to support the recovery process that is gradually taking place in most parts of Somalia.
- (c) Heavy rains reported in the Ethiopian highlands and the eastern region of Ethiopia bordering Somalia have resulted in mini floods in the down stream rivers of Shabelle and Juba where a number of villages are reported to be partly submerged.
- (d) WFP Somalia continues to support the tsunami-affected communities along the northeast coastline with relief food distribution of about 290 tons. The fourth round of monthly distributions has been completed and food dispatches for the fifth round are in progress. WFP Somalia has distributed a total of 1,655 tons to the tsunami-affected communities since January 2005.

(7) Sudan

- (a) DARFUR:
- (b) WFP released a statement on 12 May, strongly condemning the killing of two drivers of WFP-contracted trucks by bandits in South Darfur. On 8 May, the drivers had been attacked by gunmen in two separate incidents in the same area along the road between Ed Daein and Nyala. In the statement, WFP warned that a spate of attacks this month were sabotaging relief efforts ahead of the rainy season to provide food aid for more than two million people in Darfur.
- (c) On 14 May, three WFP-contracted trucks en route to El Fasher from Kutum were abducted near Kafod on the way to El Fasher. The three drivers and trucks were recovered on the same day with assistance from the Justice and Equality Movement (JEM). On 15 May, the three drivers and trucks proceeded towards Kafod with two escorts from the JEM. Upon arrival in Kafod, a group of six armed men abducted the three trucks and forced the drivers to drive south. One of the three drivers was released mid-way and returned safely to El Fasher.
- (d) WFP has recovered approximately 80 percent of the 25 tons of sorghum looted on 5 May when five WFP-contracted trucks were ambushed while transporting food between Kafod and Neni in North Darfur.
- (e) Incidents of ambushes along the Ed Daein and Nyala road have escalated to a point where transporters are reluctant to transport food without African Union (AU)/military escorts. Despite AU efforts to increase their patrols and presence along the major routes, current limitations in AU capacity continue to seriously affect the timely delivery of WFP food assistance into Nyala.
- (f) WFP and the UN Department of Safety and Security (UNDSS) security assessment of Jebel Moon confirmed the withdrawal of the National Movement for Reform and Development (NMRD) from this area. UNDSS declared this area safe for UN movement.
- (g) Reports on IDP movements in South Darfur indicate that 218 IDPs of Dinka origin mainly from Khartoum, Nyala and El Obeid, returned to their villages in North Bahr El Ghazal through Khor Omer camp.
- (h) As of 15 May, headcounts have been completed in 72 percent of the total

camps/locations, representing 53 percent of the total previously registered beneficiaries.

- (i) Preliminary results from Action Contre la Faim's nutrition survey conducted in Sania Afandu, East of Nyala town in South Darfur, indicate an alarming Global Acute Malnutrition (GAM) rate of 23.6 percent, despite the implementation of the Supplementary Feeding Programme (SFP) in the area since January. Overall, there are indications that the nutritional status of under-5s may be deteriorating. WFP nutritionists will go to South Darfur in the coming days to assess the situation and determine whether or not there are any remedial actions which WFP should be taking.
- (j) Results of World Relief's nutrition survey in March in Azirni, Sanidadi and Umtagouk, West Darfur, indicated a GAM rate of 14.8 percent. World Relief is planning to start supplementary feeding in Sanidadi area, which was not previously covered. Dispatches from the three Darfur state capitals to Cooperating Partners (CPs), between 1 and 15 May, total some 20,250 tons to some 1,065,660 beneficiaries (estimate based on dispatches). During the same period, WFP dispatched a total of about 18,845 tons by road from logistical hubs in El Obeid, Khartoum and Kosti to the Darfur states.
- (k) WFP was unable to dispatch food to several locations in East Jebel Marra and Sharia due to increased insecurity and the subsequent relocation of Cooperating Partner (CP) Samaritan Purse. WFP will prioritize these areas in the next general food distribution.
- (l) Food distributions in Tawila, Malha, Kutum, Deesa and Abu Shouk, North Darfur, are currently ongoing while WFP plans to begin distribution in El Fasher town shortly. Action Contre la Faim reported that weekly admissions to the Therapeutic Feeding Centre in Abu Shouk doubled during the reporting week. A combination of factors including diarrhoea and lack of proper care continue to be the contributing factors for the increased admission.
- (m) Additional trucks continue to arrive in Port Sudan for secondary transport. So far, 90 trucks have been loaded and 87 new trucks from one transporter contracted by WFP arrived in Port Sudan on 16 May. The arrival of these new assets will allow WFP to substantially increase secondary transport deliveries from the logistic hubs in El Obeid, Khartoum and Kosti to the Darfurs.
- (n) Airlifts into Darfur from Al Khufra, Libya continued with one IL76 delivering 38 tons every day to Nyala and Fasher. WFP has airlifted and airdropped from El Obeid a total of 3,265 tons of food into Darfur between 1 and 15 May, representing 38 percent of the 8,500 tons planned for the month.
- (o) WFP-Humanitarian Air Service (HAS), which provides services to the entire humanitarian community in Sudan, is facing a severe funding shortfall. As of 16 May, the operation faces a shortfall of 41 percent (USD14.6 million of almost USD 35.5 million). WFP-HAS needs an additional USD 5 million now to ensure continued air services, particularly in view of the approaching rainy season. Without immediate donor support, WFP-HAS will be forced to reduce the number of destinations and/or limit passenger flights and discontinue any Non-Food Item deliveries.
- (p) As of 16 May, the Darfur EMOP 10339.1 faces a shortfall of USD176 million, representing 38 percent of total requirements (USD 467.1 million). Despite the significantly improved pipeline for Darfur following an internal borrowing of USD 28 million, donor support is critical to allow the Darfur EMOP to repay 31,000 tons received from other Sudan operations and outstanding Immediate Response Account (IRA) loans of USD 20.5 million. In addition, WFP needs to reimburse the USD 28 million transferred from various budget lines of the emergency operation to ensure continued recruitment of staff and payments to transporters.
- (q) The Special Operation for logistics support in Darfur faces a shortfall of USD 21 million

(33 percent). The procurement of 100 long-haul trucks is on hold until funds are made available.

(r) SOUTH, EAST AND TRANSITIONAL AREAS:

- (s) The final report on the WFP-led Rapid Food Security Assessment, which took place between March and April this year, was released during the week. The assessments examined the latest food security situation in central and Government-controlled areas in South Sudan and identified food and non-food sectoral needs in the context of food security. Assessment teams visited Eastern Equatoria, Bahr El Ghazal (north and west), Jonglei, Kordofans (north, south and west), Upper Nile and White Nile. A total of 51 sites in 21 localities were assessed by teams comprising staff from the Humanitarian Aid Commission (HAC), Ministry of Agriculture, FAO, UNICEF, OCHA, WHO, Nuba Mountains Programme for Advancing Conflict Transformation (NMPACT), IRC, ADRA, USAID, Save the Children US and CARE.
- (t) According to the final report, the assessment confirmed that the food security situation in assessed areas has sharply deteriorated because of a poor agricultural season, extremely high retail cereal prices and marginal coping capacities of most communities due to extended hardship resulting from years of conflict and lack of rural development. The report recommended immediate interventions to improve and stabilize the current food security situation of the country. Additionally, operational adjustments to planned humanitarian food and non-food assistance are urgently recommended for the assessed localities - on average up to August/September 2005. Continuous monitoring of the food security situation is required over the coming months.
- (u) The assessment recommended that a food security reassessment exercise be conducted in August-September 2005 taking into account the performance of the forthcoming agricultural season. It should be noted that similar assessments were also undertaken in SPLM/A-controlled areas in South Sudan. The final analysis of these assessments is expected in the coming weeks.
- (v) A cross-line mission left Malakal on 9 May with 3 barges, 1 pusher and 6 boats. A total of 62 representatives from HAC, Sudan Relief Rehabilitation Commission (SRRC), OCHA, UNICEF, FAO, WFP, UNDSS, ICRC, ADRA, SUDAN AID and Sudan Council of Churches (SCC) are participating in the mission. Participants were divided into 4 mixed registration and distribution teams, one security team and one coordination team with each team on one boat. Staff from WFP's Southern Sector also participated in the mission.
- (w) Teams moved into assigned locations (Warajok, Owachi, Pahydney, Obai, Kaldak, Pakwa, Muilwak, Atar, Deil, Dor, Fanjak) that had previously been assessed by the security team and met with community leaders to inform them about the objectives and procedures of the exercise. Registrations and subsequent distributions of food (WFP) and non-food (FAO agricultural inputs and UNICEF education materials) items have already started in certain locations. As of 14 May, some 305 tons of food have been distributed to 17,150 beneficiaries (2,859 households) in the above locations.
- (x) The nutritional situation of people in Bentiu and Rubkona remains a serious concern. Increases in admission rates in supplementary and therapeutic feeding programmes, mainly as a result of increased displacement due to insecurity in Nhialdiu, Dhorkan and Jikang areas, continue. In the meantime, WFP continues to provide food assistance to supplementary and therapeutic feeding centres managed by Action Contre la Faim (ACF) and Médecins Sans Frontières and provides general food distributions to the most vulnerable population. It should be noted that ACF is planning to conduct a rapid nutrition assessment in May, as a follow up to the one conducted in February, for which results were reported last week.
- (y) Sudanese Red Crescent (SRC) conducted a joint nutrition survey on 22 April in Odi,

Hamoshkoraib locality Kassala State, targeting children under-five years. The survey found Global Acute Malnutrition (GAM) at 24.6 percent for children under five. Severe Acute Malnutrition (SAM) was reported at 3.4 percent. Primary factors that contributed to the deterioration of the nutritional status among children include access to food and clean drinking water. Due to the severity of the situation, SRC recommended blanket supplementary feeding for all children under-five years for a three-month period to be followed by targeted supplementary feeding for children under-five years and pregnant and nursing women. Additionally, SRC recommended measles vaccination for all under-fives as the survey indicated that out of the 203 children screened, only one child was vaccinated. Limited access to safe water was reported as the biggest risk factor for morbidity and malnutrition. The survey stressed that an appropriate strategy needs to be formulated immediately to address the critical safe water needs through the drilling of new boreholes, in conjunction with hygiene and health awareness. Meanwhile, WFP is currently reviewing a proposal submitted by SRC for a supplementary feeding programme in Odi.

- (z) During the week, WFP distributed food to 11,065 returnees in Julud distribution centre, Dilling County in the Nuba Mountains, South Kordofan. In addition, 2,230 people headed to locations in the Nuba Mountains from the five established main entry points: Habil, Kurtala, Abu Kroshola, Abbassia and Dabebaat. Out of the total, some 1,665 people arrived from Khartoum, 148 from Madeni, 68 from Omdurman and 69 from Sinner. Sudanese Red Crescent also registered 163 returnees (73 female and 90 male) in Kadugli locality. The returnees came from Khartoum and White Nile areas and proceeded to Katcha, Angolo, Andolou, Atmor, Al Regafi Masakin and Kafina. It should be noted that NMPACT, the focal point for tracking returns in the region, is in the process of recruiting and training enumerators for registration of returnees. There are also reports of influx of returnees in Abiemnom in Western Upper Nile although the estimated number of the returnees has yet to be established.
- (aa) The communities affected by inter-clan fighting in Yirol and Tonj in the regions of Lakes and Western Equatoria are reportedly holding discussions to resolve the tension. No further fighting was reported in the region. In the meantime, some 4,000 IDPs displaced by fighting have reportedly returned to their original villages. World Vision reported that it has registered some 1,220 returnees in Tonj Country coming from GoS towns of Wau, Raka and Basire since January. A further 380 returnees have been reported in Jir Village in Rumbek Centre.
- (ab) Spontaneous IDPs movement to their areas of origin within the three states of the greater Equatoria continues. Some IDPs such as those from Lobonok reported that they have joined relatives in Jebel Kujur IDP camp as they could not access their areas of origin due to insecurity caused by Lord Resistance Army activities. Meanwhile, an interagency registration/monitoring team is in the process of establishing tracking systems at all entry points. Such a system would improve tracking of returnees to identify whether people are returning or visiting relatives. It is envisaged that the tracking system will also facilitate plans to assist returnees to settle in areas of origin.
- (ac) A total of 4,375 returnees from GoS towns received food aid in Gok Machar in Aweil North County, Bahr El Ghazal.. An inter-agency assessment mission (UN, NGOs and HAC) commenced preparations to distribute food and non-food items, including agricultural seeds and tools, to IDPs in Diem Zubier, Bahr El Ghazal. WFP's allocation of 150 tons of mixed food commodities for the IDPs will cover a three-month full ration requirement for 3,000 people or a one-month full ration requirement for 9,000 people, depending on the beneficiary caseload. The food provided was allocated out of stocks that were pre-positioned earlier in Raja for expected returnees.
- (ad) Heavy rains continue to affect WFP air and road deliveries, particularly to Bahr El Ghazal. The WFP Humanitarian Air Service experienced delays caused by rains for the

second week, in Wau, and Gogrial. Road deliveries to northern Bahr El Ghazal have also been impacted.

- (ae) As of 15 May, WFP's Emergency Operation 10048.3 faces a 74 percent shortfall against its operational requirements. To date, this EMOP, valued at USD 302 million, has received only USD 77.5 million, representing approximately 26 percent of the total operational requirements. Urgent contributions are needed immediately to respond to the pressing food requirements in the coming months and to allow commodities to be pre-positioned in major hubs prior to an expected increase in spontaneous returns after the rainy season.
- (af) The supporting Special Operation 10368.0, Emergency road repair and mine clearance of key transport routes in Sudan in support of EMOP 10048.2, has received a total of USD 68 million, representing a 24 percent shortfall against its operational requirements. Completion of the two phases of the operation has resulted in improved access by road on the 543 km repaired stretches. Positive results have also been reported – with increased trade in the area and a 25 percent reduction in cost of basic food and non-food items along the Western corridor. The second phase of the operation has been extended and an agreement was reached with the SPLM/A on additional stretches.

(8) Tanzania

- (a) Over 2,129 refugees have voluntarily repatriated to Burundi in April 2005.
- (b) Close to 400,500 beneficiaries received some 1,400 tons of food through general distribution, supplementary and therapeutic feeding in refugee camps in western Tanzania. More than 7,000 food-insecure and otherwise vulnerable Tanzanians in the host communities surrounding the camps were also supported with WFP host community activities, including access to camp-based health care facilities, school feeding, Food-For-Work, Food-For-Training and Food-For-Hospital in-patients.
- (c) After reduced rations had been distributed under WFP's PRRO since 2004, now further ration modifications will be introduced for the 23 May distribution cycle. No pulses will be distributed, whereas corn-soya blend rations will be temporarily increased to 40g. While refugees currently receive approximately 1,617 Kcal/day (87 percent of the usual Kcal level), their intake will be reduced to only 1,477 Kcal/day (79 percent of the usual Kcal level), which is far from what is nutritionally required for healthy survival of beneficiaries.
- (d) WFP's pipeline situation is still precarious with a shortfall of almost 22,980 tons of food from 1 May 2005 to 31 January 2006. Unless new contributions are confirmed urgently, WFP will run out of oil and pulses in May and cereals in July, based on full rations. Currently no corn-soya blend or salt is being distributed. This implies that the nutritional status of more than 400,000 refugees in western Tanzania will be jeopardized.

(9) Uganda

- (a) The security situation in northern Uganda is becoming extremely volatile with widespread uncontrolled movement of rebels in small groups abducting children, looting and killing civilians. According to Senior Uganda People's Defence Forces (UPDF) official, the past week was characterized by rebel movement into Pader district, from the southern part of the district in the belt between Latanya and Adilang. Fifteen civilians were abducted from Lapeta village, 8 km North East of Gulu town on 7 May and an unspecified number of people was abducted from Purongo areas. The Lord's Resistance Army (LRA) rebels ambushed a UPDF vehicle along Gulu - Opit road on 9 May and killed three UPDF soldiers. The UPDF has strengthened security in the camps, but remains very thin on roads and outside camp areas. This leaves road users

and civilians extremely vulnerable to LRA attacks.

- (b) On 18 May, a WFP convoy moving from Pader to Lira came across a group of LRA rebels crossing the road. In an attempt to stop the WFP convoy interfering with the rebels' crossing, the rebels started shooting towards the convoy. While pursuing the rebels, one of the UPDF soldiers escorting the WFP convoy was injured.
- (c) A theft of 43 tons of WFP food commodities occurred between 2 and 5 May at Lokwamor, 4Km on Nabilatuk - Moroto road in Nakapiripirit district, following a breakdown of a commercial truck trailer. By Thursday, 5 May, local residents had looted all the food on the truck. The truck drivers reported the incidence to UPDF and police garrisons in the vicinity of the crime, but no appropriate action to address the situation has yet been undertaken. A letter has been written to the Government and local council leaders condemning the act and requesting speedy intervention to recover the looted food. This is the first time WFP has incurred a loss of this magnitude in Karamoja region.
- (d) A global fund proposal for nutrition support in HIV/AIDS prevention, treatment and care is being developed with the Ministry of Health for round 5 funding. USD 24 million is programmed for a three-year period. The food and communication strategy is a major component of the proposal.
- (e) WFP food distribution continues to reach 1.4 million displaced persons, 192,000 refugees and other vulnerable persons. During the past week, WFP distributed 4,145 tons of relief food assistance to 300,685 persons including IDPs sheltering in camps in Gulu, Kitgum, Pader and Lira districts, refugees, children in nutrition centres and other vulnerable persons
- (f) The pipeline situation is still precarious with a shortfall of 90,188 tons of food commodities with a funding gap of USD 49 million, required to maintain the food pipeline necessary to continue providing relief assistance to IDPs and refugees through December. Unless new contributions are confirmed urgently, WFP will run out of commodities in June, and the nutritional status of 1.4 million internally displaced persons in northern Uganda, mostly women and children, will be jeopardized.

(D) West Africa: (1) Regional (2) Benin (3) Burkina Faso (4) Cote d'Ivoire (5) Ghana (6) Guinea (7) Liberia (8) Mali (9) Mauritania (10) Niger (11) Togo

(1) Regional

- (a) Interagency assessment missions were conducted in Togo, Benin and Ghana by WFP, UNHCR and UNICEF. The aim was to determine the needs for refugees in camps and evaluate the need for assistance where refugees have settled with host communities. As an immediate response, WFP launched Immediate Response EMOPs both in Benin and Ghana during the first week of May. Distributions started in the same week using stocks available in-country.
- (b) Through the regional West Africa Coastal Protracted Relief and Recovery Operation (PRRO) 10064.3, which is assisting displaced and resettling populations in Guinea, Liberia and Sierra Leone, WFP continues to take steps to ensure that support to refugees continues despite significant pipeline shortfalls. Different programmes, including emergency school feeding, Food-For-Work (FFW) and Food-For-Training (FFT), have been reduced and/or suspended. While general rations for refugees, IDPs and returnees are continuing, only reduced rations are being distributed. Additional donor support is urgently needed in order to enable distribution of full rations and full implementation of normalizing programmes like school feeding and FFW.

(2) Benin

- (a) As of 18 May, about 16,400 Togolese refugees are estimated to be in Benin (around 6,000 in camps). The number of arrivals at the border has decreased. Initial findings from an interagency assessment mission conclude that there is an immediate need for food assistance (for refugees in camps), as stocks are running out. WFP already launched an Immediate Response Emergency Operation. The UN Country Team made a USD 5 million flash appeal for assistance to 20,000 refugees (of which 7,000 in camps) on 12 May.

(3) Burkina Faso

- (a) Through Cote d'Ivoire Regional PRRO 10372, WFP continues to support returnees through Food-For-Assets (FFA) programmes. Expansions of the FFA programmes were temporarily put on hold during the month of April, while WFP and implementing partners participated in intense crisis management training (expansions are now again underway).

(4) Cote d'Ivoire

- (a) From 12 to 18 May, some 445 tons of food were distributed to nearly 53,000 people. This includes distributions to approximately 38,000 children, who were fed through the emergency school feeding programme.
- (b) Food distributions to 2,500 refugees still living in camps in Tabou have been completed. UNHCR and SAARA are in the process of updating the lists of refugees as well as the new volunteers for repatriation.

(5) Ghana

- (a) On May 18, it was estimated that 12,800 Togolese were in Ghana. Almost all of them are living with host families/communities. Initial findings from the interagency assessment mission pointed out that refugees coming to the Volta region are putting a heavy load on the economy and food security of the host families/communities. The UN system is planning to reinforce support to host communities. In the northern part of the Volta Region (north of Ho), all refugees are staying with host families - however around Aflao, (more or less a suburb of Lomé) the high numbers of refugees is destabilising the living conditions of the Ghanaian population.
- (b) WFP launched an Immediate Response Emergency Operation. Commodity stocks available from the Cote d'Ivoire Regional PRRO 10372 enabled WFP to immediately provide assistance to the Togolese refugees. The loan of this food did not interrupt regular distributions to Liberian refugees living in the Buduburam Refugee Settlement, who receive a monthly distribution through PRRO 10372.

(6) Guinea

- (a) During the first fortnight of May, some 1,190 Liberian refugees were voluntarily repatriated, bringing the total to over 9,000 since the beginning of the repatriation campaign in November 2004. The repatriation has been slower than planned; in April, a total of 2,723 refugees were repatriated, while UNHCR had expected to reach 6,000 voluntary repatriations per month. A comparative study of the socio-economic situation in the camps in 2003 and 2005 shows a worsening situation, the main reasons being the rise of unemployment because of the decreasing number of NGO's working in the camps as well as the reduction of the rations distributed to the refugees caused by the lack of resources.
- (b) A new beneficiary identification system has been implemented in 4 of Guinea's 7 refugee camps, and some problems have been encountered. The new system includes print-outs with photographs of family members benefiting from food distributions, and its

aim is to minimize fraud and to ensure access to food rations to the most vulnerable. However, the system has slowed the start and duration of planned distributions, and faced resistance from refugees. WFP and UNHCR are sensitizing the refugee populations on the advantages of the new system; all camps are expected to operate under the new system by the end of June.

- (c) From 2 to 15 May, WFP distributed 435 tons of food to nearly 43,000 beneficiaries, including approximately 30,000 people fed through general distributions.
- (d) Sensitization and information missions with WFP distribution partners (Catholic Relief Services, Action Contre la Faim and UNHCR) continued in the camps to inform refugees about the continued distribution of the reduced food ration as well as changes in the food basket. Due to the lack of resources, WFP is obliged to make constant changes to the commodity mix, particularly cereals.
- (e) The arrival of food loans from Liberia and Chad has allowed WFP Guinea to pre-position stocks before the start of the rainy season, when transport of commodities becomes very difficult.

(7) Liberia

- (a) From 11 to 17 May, nearly 121,000 vulnerable beneficiaries received over 875 tons of WFP food in Liberia. This included support to more than 33,000 IDPs still living in camps, as well as more than 10,000 returnees who received resettlement packages, which are being distributed in order to facilitate and encourage the resettlement of displaced persons.
- (b) Since the repatriation of refugees and resettlement of IDPs started in October/November 2004, some 15,000 returnees and 133,000 IDPs have been supported by WFP with resettlement packages. In WFP's continued effort to progressively shift from emergency to recovery activities, WFP assessed four Food-For-Work/Food in Support of Local Initiatives (FSLI) projects (3 Agriculture and 1 Infrastructure) in Nimba County, which benefit 2,330 people on a daily basis. FSLI activities in Liberia are becoming a key consideration for war affected people deciding to return to their places of origin.

(8) Mali

- (a) Recent nutritional surveys undertaken by NGO,s (OXFAM-UK and Action Contre la Faim) in the northern parts of Mali found a significant increase of severe malnutrition amongst pastoral populations, particularly amongst children. The lean season began much earlier this year and it can be expected that it will last longer than in previous years. Prices of cereals in areas of difficult access have experienced strong increases, and speculation coupled to the Côte d'Ivoire crisis has resulted in limited availability of cereals in several areas of the country. Although the situation is not yet catastrophic, if strong measures to secure food availability to the most affected populations are not taken immediately, the end of the lean season may become a generalized and critical food security problem.
- (b) As part of Cote d'Ivoire Regional PRRO 10372 , targetted general food distribution to vulnerable groups and emergency school-feeding distributions are continuing. In an effort to expand Food-For-Work and Food-For-Training programmes, WFP has recently signed Letter of Understandings with German Agro Action (Sikasso region), Reach Italia (Segou region), ADRA (Koulikoro region), OIM (Kati area), UNHCR (Refugees camps in Sikasso region) and main national NGOs.
- (c) WFP's emergency operation remains under-resourced with a shortfall of 93 percent (or USD 6.6 million).

(9) Mauritania

- (a) The latest FEWS-Net report indicates that food security is declining in the agro-pastoral zone. An increase in the price of imported cereals in April (ranging from +6 to +19 percent from March in selected markets) has further reduced the ability of agricultural households to acquire food.
- (b) According to FAO, the desert locust outlook has improved as control operations and cold weather in the Maghreb have reduced locust numbers. As such, a large-scale invasion of the Sahel in summer is unlikely.
- (c) Food-For-Work distributions under WFP PRRO 10359.0 started on April 3, 2005. To date, a total of over 2,690 tons of assorted commodities have been distributed to approximately 172,000 beneficiaries in the regions of Brakna, Gorgol, Assaba and Hodh El Gharbi.
- (d) Shortfalls remain for PRRO 10359.0, which is resourced at 77 percent for 2005. If no new donations are confirmed, the operation could face a pipeline break in August, at the peak of the lean season when food aid needs are highest. There is currently a pipeline break for iodized salt; consequently, PRRO distributions are underway with partial rations composed of wheat, pulses and vegetable oil alone.

(10) Niger

- (a) A FEWS-Net report for April 2005 confirmed that Niger's food security situation is deteriorating and has been worsened by the start of the agricultural season, leading to increased financial needs for households. It has been noted that vulnerable populations are almost consuming only wild seeds and plants, which may no longer be available in the coming months. It is expected that there will be significant losses of livestock. Finally, vulnerable households have begun to consume their stock of seeds for the coming agriculture season, which could leave them without seeds to plant in June.
- (b) Results of a joint WFP/Helen Keller International nutritional survey, carried out in January 2005 in the rural areas of Maradi and Zinder, indicated very high rates of moderate and severe malnutrition, comparable to those normally recorded at the height of the lean season. Malnutrition rates will be even higher over the next few months.
- (c) MSF is currently finalising two nutritional surveys (same methodology but different targeting than WFP/HKI nutritional surveys). Preliminary results indicate an increase in malnutrition among children under 5: between 2.4 percent and 2.9 percent severe acute malnutrition and between 19.3 percent and 19.5 percent global acute malnutrition for the areas surveys. This appears to confirm the widespread impression that the situation is indeed continually deteriorating. World Vision is currently consolidating the results of a mortality survey in the regions of Maradi and Zinder.
- (d) Admissions of severely malnourished children under 5 (WFH <3 sd) to MSF's Therapeutic Feeding Centre in Maradi have more than doubled compared with previous years.
- (e) A Flash Appeal was launched on 19 May to highlight critical shortfalls in financing all UN interventions in Niger totalling USD 16,191,000, including a shortfall of USD 1,446,000 for WFP's Emergency Operation.

(11) Togo

- (a) In Togo, the first deployment of UN-led assessment missions took place on 12 and 13 May. It is estimated that there are about 4,500 IDPs in country.

(E) Southern Africa: (1) Regional (2) Angola (3) Lesotho (4) Malawi (5) Mozambique (6)

Namibia (7) Swaziland (8) Zambia (9) Zimbabwe

(1) Regional

- (a) A lack of rainfall from January to April resulted in an untimely dry spell, accompanied by high temperatures across eastern and southern Zimbabwe, central and southern Mozambique, southern Malawi, southern Zambia and northeastern Namibia. According to a recent FEWS- Net African Weather Hazards Assessment, rainfall totals are below 60 to 75 percent of normal levels with deficits of 200 to 600 millimetres for the 2004/05 agricultural season. The driest areas are in Gaza and Inhambane provinces in Mozambique, as well as Manicaland and Masvingo provinces in Zimbabwe. Preliminary forecasts indicate a harvest well below last season and the 5-year average. In particular, maize production has been more adversely affected by the mid-season drought, and has been forecast to decline significantly. The drought will probably result in a reduction of viable pasture, water shortages and low river levels. The dry season has begun, therefore possibilities for improvement during the next several months are nil. The exception is South Africa, where in contrast, agricultural growing conditions were quite favourable. The latest forecast of 2005 maize output in South Africa, the sub-region's largest producer, is 11.8 million tons, plus large carry-over stocks from last season, estimated at 3 million tons.
- (b) As southern Africa begins yet another year of immense humanitarian needs, resulting from the 'triple threat' of food insecurity, weakened capacity for governance and HIV/AIDS, James Morris, WFP's Executive Director, will begin his fifth trip to the region on 22 May. Mr. Morris will be acting in his capacity as the United Nations Secretary-General's Special Envoy for Humanitarian Needs in Southern Africa. During his eleven-day mission, Mr. Morris plans to visit four countries – Botswana, Malawi, Zambia and Zimbabwe.
- (c) The HIV/AIDS crisis in the region is considered so severe that the Special Envoy will hold a review meeting that will include the Executive Directors of UNICEF and UNAIDS, as well as ten country representatives from the United Nations system in southern Africa. The meeting will examine current interventions, UN reform, and the need to increase the humanitarian response in the face of a more competitive environment for donor resources. The Special Envoy will also meet with key government officials, donor representatives and aid agencies, in Botswana, Zambia, Malawi and Zimbabwe.

(2) Angola

- (a) In Uige Province, more than 1,000 people, relatives of victims of the Marburg virus, began receiving food assistance from WFP. The Angolan Red Cross also distributed kits to these families, containing non-food items. The initiative is part of a recuperation strategy aimed at keeping relatives of the victims socially active and reducing population movements from Uige to other areas.
- (b) The Angolan Voluntary Repatriation process for refugees resumed last week, following a suspension of the operation at the beginning of the rainy season last year. WFP will continue supporting the repatriation process by providing food to the returnees for a full harvest cycle. However, due to funding shortages, WFP has been forced to implement ration cuts limiting the returnees' food basket. Currently beneficiaries receive 50 percent of the planned cereal rations.
- (c) The Angola Protracted Relief and Recovery Operation (PRRO) 10054.2, Assistance to War Affected People, continues to be severely under-funded. The project requires approximately USD 18 million or 27,000 tons of food to complete the operation through the end of 2005. Without immediate new contributions, WFP will have to introduce even more severe distribution cuts in the coming months.

(3) Lesotho

- (a) The FAO/WFP Crop and Food Supply Assessment Mission is underway to update the earlier work of the pre-harvest assessment mission. The mission included participation from key government stakeholders, FEWS-Net and C-SAFE. Early indications suggest that the harvest is still below the five-year average. Mission members also observed widespread chronic vulnerability throughout the districts visited.
- (b) From 11 to 17 May, WFP and implementing partners distributed 1,520 tons of food to approximately 108,000 beneficiaries. Recipients are participating in targeted programmes, dealing with mother and child health care; early childhood care and development; vulnerable group feeding; orphans and other vulnerable children; HIV/AIDS and tuberculosis patients enrolled in clinics and home-based care projects; and Food-For Work.

(4) Malawi

- (a) The Malawi Vulnerability Assessment exercise has analysed data collection and put together a preliminary draft report, which indicates a total maize shortfall of approximately 483,000 tons. The reduction in production has severely compromised food security of the majority of households throughout the country and there is general agreement the country will face a severe food crisis during the April 2005 to March 2006 consumption year.

(5) Mozambique

- (a) The FAO/WFP Crop and Food Supply Assessment Mission (CFSAM) has concluded fieldwork in 43 districts throughout the country. The CFSAM debriefed the Ministry of Agriculture, donors and other key stakeholders. A final report is expected by mid-June.

(6) Namibia

- (a) WFP provided food distributions are ongoing, but continue to be hampered by the lack of proper government transportation. This has resulted in a reduction of WFP beneficiary food recipients to approximately 3,400. The monthly food distribution for refugees is expected to be around 7,000 people.

(7) Swaziland

- (a) Preliminary findings of the FAO/WFP Crop and Food Supply Assessment Mission indicate serious concerns for the Lowveld and Lubombo Plateau regions where production is negligible. In addition, a lack of rainfall from 2 to 16 May has affected the water level of the only river in the region, the Mbuluzana. The low water level is expected to negatively impact livestock and households during the coming dry winter period.
- (b) From 10 to 16 May, WFP distributed food assistance to approximately 12,000 beneficiaries in coordination with implementing partners.

(8) Zambia

- (a) The United Nations Secretary General's Special Envoy for Humanitarian Needs in Southern Africa, Mr. James Morris, will be visiting Zambia from 22 to 24 May. The Special Envoy will hold meetings with the Government, the UN Country Team, donors and non-governmental organizations and civil society groups on issues related to food security, governance, HIV/AIDS, orphans and other vulnerable groups.

(9) Zimbabwe

- (a) Mr. Morris will be visiting Zimbabwe as part of his tour of southern Africa. The Government announced that the Special Envoy would meet with President Mugabe in order to discuss the food situation in light of the regional drought this agricultural season. Zimbabwe is facing acute food shortages as a result of a very poor crop production, blighted by a mid-season drought and lack of agricultural inputs such as fertilizer. Reliable estimates from agricultural experts reveal that maize production is unlikely to exceed 500,000 tons, approximately 1.3 million tons short of requirements.
- (b) On 19 May, the Government declared a 45 percent devaluation of the Zim\$. Earlier this week the government raised the prices of several basic commodities including cooking oil, sugar and salt. The country has suffered shortages of most basic food items since early April. Most of the commodities are available on the parallel market, but at prices unaffordable to the majority of households. However, manufacturers indicated that the price increase was not enough to encourage them to continue production in a high inflation economy. The annual rate of inflation in April was just under 130 percent, concentrated in the non-food sector.

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

(1) Indonesia

- (a) Earthquakes are continuing, including the occurrence of one south of Nias, with a magnitude of 6.9.
- (b) On 10 May, the Government's Implementing Agency of Rehabilitation and Reconstruction (BRR) announced the extension by one month of temporary visa procedures that were introduced following the tsunami disaster in order to facilitate the work of the international aid agencies and their personnel. The announcement stated that BRR would also like to clarify that no final decisions have been made about the status of individual NGOs in Aceh and Nias and confirmed that all organizations should continue their activities as normal.
- (c) In May, the total requirement for general food distribution is 12,300 tons of food for a caseload of 814,000 beneficiaries throughout Aceh and North Sumatra. The increased caseload is due to increased requirements for Simeulue. School feeding requirements in May amount to 300 tons of fortified biscuits for 155,800 primary school children.
- (d) General Food Distribution is ongoing through 7 WFP cooperating partners (CPs). In Nias, WFP met with key officials of Nias Selatan district administration to discuss the planned distribution in their area of responsibility, and the possibility of police support during the distributions.
- (e) Within the past week, the school feeding programme covered 155,800 children in Banda Aceh, Aceh Besar, Pidie, and Lamno, Calang, Aceh Barat and Nagan Raya, Lhokseumawe and Aceh Utara. Teachers reported a positive impact on students' daily attendance. WFP met with the District Department of Education in Nias to explore the possibility of implementing school feeding in selected schools.
- (f) A WFP real-time evaluation mission this week undertook field visits in order to assess WFP's Tsunami response in Indonesia. In addition, another mission, of WFP/OCHA, also took place during the week.

(2) Korea (DPR)

- (a) From 14 to 20 May, 18 out of 19 Local Food Production factories were operational; one biscuit factory suspended production due to lack of wheat flour following an increase of production in March and April. The Rice Milk Blend factory resumed production after a 3 week break caused by shortage of laminated foil bags for packaging. Production for the

second week of May was 1,700 tonnes or over 100 percent of the EMOP's weekly requirement. Without new donations of cereals, WFP will be forced to suspend assistance to elderly people, primary school children and the poorest urban households from mid-June. By late July rations to pregnant and nursing women (PNWs), and children in nurseries and kindergartens will also have to be cut. Moreover, with current resources, WFP-supported factories producing fortified food for children and PNWs will only be able to operate until end-August while assistance to orphanages and hospitals can only be maintained until end-September.

(3) Maldives

- (a) The Maldives' National Security Service indicated some problems to secure transport vessels for food distribution, as boats are currently being used to take advantage of the fishing season. Also due to weather conditions, there have been some delays in getting food from the Forward Coordinating Centres to the islands.
- (b) An OCHA-led Lessons Learnt workshop took place on 17-18 May and included the participation of UN agencies, Government officials and donors.
- (c) UN Special Envoy, former President Bill Clinton, is expected in the Maldives on 28 and 29 May. His visit will include meetings with the President and other key government officials, the UN Country Team, civil society and local officials.

(4) Myanmar

- (a) Security was tightened in Yangon due to bombing on 7 May, however, the situation is normal in the areas where WFP's tsunami response operations are implemented.
- (b) In Delta area, since March, WFP tsunami response activities have been focusing on the construction of water ponds, access road, bridges, houses, dykes, among other infrastructure. To date, 410 tons of food items have been distributed for Food-For-Work activities for the construction and renovation of 29 water ponds, 289 houses and 15 access roads in Labbuta township, benefiting approximately 40,000 residents in those villages. In total, including relief food distribution and Food-For-Work food distribution, over 640 tons have been distributed in Delta area since the beginning of the intervention.
- (c) In the area bordering with Thailand, a total of 5,000 beneficiaries are reached through relief food distribution and Food-For-Work (FFW). Last week, a relief distribution of 5.6 tons of food was provided to 388 beneficiaries in 90 households in Chang Wa and Kan Pon Gyi Na villages. Food distribution for relief and FFW activities were on-going in Aung Bar and nearby distribution points this week. In total, 270 tons of food, including relief food distribution and FFW, have been distributed in Thai border area up to now.

(5) Sri Lanka

- (a) Travel and security alerts are again issued for the eastern regions, particularly Batticaloa and Trincomalee, where more violence has been reported. Tensions continue in Trincomalee area, where seven people were injured by hand grenade explosions on 17 May. In Batticaloa, various political killings were reported.
- (b) WFP, in collaboration with the Ministry of Relief, Reconciliation and Rehabilitation (MRRR), has stopped food distribution for ten days, starting 15 May, to allow for reconciliation of distribution and stock figures and to avoid further retroactive food distribution. January to April food distributions have thus closed; beneficiaries cannot redeem food entitlements for that period anymore.

(G) Latin America and Caribbean: (1) Central America (2) Bolivia (3) Colombia (4) Cuba (5)

El Salvador (6) Guatemala (7) Nicaragua

(1) Central America

- (a) After making landfall in El Salvador, Hurricane Adrian quickly weakened as it moved inland and was downgraded to a Tropical Storm. As a result of the Hurricane, no deaths nor significant landslides or floods have been reported, however national authorities and communities living in the River Lempa Basin in El Salvador, on the Pacific coast, continue to be at a high state of alert as discharging of the hydro-electric dams along the rivers course continue. National authorities and WFP in Guatemala, Honduras and Nicaragua are also closely monitoring the situation.

(2) Bolivia

- (a) Since Bolivia's President Mesa did not veto the hydrocarbons bill as expected, Congress passed the bill on 17 May. President Mesa used a constitutional clause, by which he passed the legislation back to the Congress. Later on, President Mesa presented his new government's programme for 2005-2007, leaving the hydrocarbons discussion behind. Various violent protests, often demanding the nationalization of hydrocarbons and the closure of Congress, caused significant unrest in Bolivia. A massive march of reportedly 20,000 people caused minor clashes at the beginning of this week. Another march from miners and coca growers started moving from Oruro since last Monday. There are several road blockades along the main highway connecting La Paz with Oruro, Cochabamba and the Yungas. Additionally, on 16 May, a massive hunger strike took place at the Plaza Murillo. Besides that, for reasons related to the basic salary of teachers, Bolivia's teachers' federation also held a national strike.
- (b) Irregular distribution of rainfall affected maize crops in many communities causing crop failures in the region.
- (c) Significant reduction in cases of malnourished children under 5 years old has been reported by partners and local health authorities, mainly as a result of WFP's food assistance during the most critical periods of the year.
- (d) After facing delays due to road conditions and counterpart's administrative problems, distributions were resumed. During the past week, over 135 tons of food were distributed to some 1,820 families in the Municipalities of Charagua, Boyuibe and Camiri. Food rations did not include beans, since the Bolivian Government had not yet completed the import documentation. It is estimated that complete rations will be delivered in the course of next week.

(3) Colombia

- (a) UN Human Rights Chief, Mr. Louise Arbour, advised the Colombian government on Saturday (14 May) to tighten its peace proposal and ensure that the atrocities committed by militant groups are punished. Under the peace deal proposed by the government, which is now being debated in the Congress, the Colombian government may reduce sentences to militant members in exchange for their disarmament.
- (b) Massive displacements have been reported in the Province of Antioquia, where more than 285 civilians (66 families approximately) from 10 different rural areas of the Municipality of Argelia were forced to flee, due to strong clashes between the Colombian army and illegal armed groups. These people are temporarily settled in the Municipality of Argelia, waiting for humanitarian assistance. The Colombian army has reported that inhabitants of this municipality are also facing blockades, reason for which the proper delivery of food supplies will face delays.
- (c) According to the Colombian military sources, at least 16 rebels have been killed by

governmental forces in different Colombian regions during the week from 9 to 15 May. Different clashes took place in the Provinces of Antioquia, Bolivar, Cesar, Valle and Casanare. The Colombian army seized weapons, ammunition and supplies from the illegal armed groups. The situation remains tense and volatile in Altos de Cauca, an area on the outskirts of Bogota, with more than 20,000 IDP's. At least two boys were killed by unknown armed men on 11 May and up to seven other young men were reported missing in the same area. No incidents have been reported by WFP staff in this area.

- (d) Colombian humanitarian aid organizations are on maximum alert after heavy rains left six people dead and over 1,000 families homeless last weekend. During last week's emergency, more than 14 municipalities in the Province of Antioquia have been affected by the strong weather conditions. In Valle del Cauca, at least 1,000 people have been severely affected by strong rains and floods while in the Municipalities of Istmina and Condoto in the Province of Choco, 13 neighbourhoods and some 700 people were affected. In the province of Santander, some 1,750 people located on the banks of the rivers Minero and Hortaare are at high risk of floods. The local government of Santander is analyzing the possibility of an emergency relocation for these persons. The Colombian National Meteorology Department reported that rains will continue up to mid June, predicting that this week the Pacific Coast as well as the Andean Zone will be the most affected areas.
- (e) WFP developed several food aid activities in Altos de Cauca as part of Protracted Relief and Recovery Operation (PRRO) 10158, Assistance to People Displaced by Violence, and will continue providing assistance with the new PRRO 10366.

(4) Cuba

- (a) Following the continuing dry climatic conditions, Cuba's authorities continue assisting the population in overcoming the water shortages. Due to the high costs of water transportation by trucks and rail on a daily basis, water tanks will be distributed to inhabitants in the eastern part of the country, to ensure regular water supply.
- (b) The population in the six most affected provinces of Las Tunas, Holguín, Granma, Santiago de Cuba, Guantánamo and Camaguey continue receiving a monthly free-of-charge ration of food, consisting of rice and beans, in addition to the ration distributed to the general population in the country through the national distribution network.
- (c) A three-month Emergency Operation for Cuba, EMOP 10423.0, has been approved on 28 April, under which WFP plans to reach 773,000 people, by providing assistance to vulnerable groups affected by drought.

(5) El Salvador

- (a) After making landfall in El Salvador, Hurricane Adrian quickly weakened as it moved inland and was downgraded to a Tropical Storm. As a result of the Hurricane, no deaths nor significant landslides or floods have been reported, however, national authorities and communities living in the River Lempa Basin in El Salvador, on the Pacific coast, continue to be at a high state of alert as discharging of the hydro-electric dams along the rivers course continue.
- (b) The Salvadoran National Emergency Committee has stated that 15,000 people evacuated from vulnerable areas will remain in shelters until a full evaluation of the situation is completed. The Ministry of Health along with WHO/PAHO remain on epidemiological alert as the wet conditions have raised concerns for respiratory and skin ailments.

- (c) WFP will continue to coordinate with the National Family Secretariat and NGOs to assess the food security situation and take action as required. WFP monitors will be in the field starting Friday (20 May) afternoon to carry out assessments of populations in the western Departments of Ahuachapan and Sonsonate that have been affected by constant earth tremors over the past two weeks and that were also in the path of Adrian.
- (d) Earth tremors continued to affect the western Departments of Ahuachapan and Sonsonate during the past week. A WFP assessment in the area found minor damages to infrastructures (i.e. houses and schools) and isolated landslides. In the district of Apaneca, 115 families have been living in tents, as their houses, which were recently constructed after the 2001 earthquakes, suffered structural damage. WFP will assist those families, through the local authorities and National Family Secretariat, with three-month rations.
- (e) Emergency food distributions have continued in the eastern department of Morazan, one of the poorest departments in the country, where cases of malnutrition have been on the rise as the communities are at the peak of the lean period before the next maize harvest in August. WFP has distributed 64 tons to 3,800 beneficiaries and will continue to assist the families for the next two months in coordination with the National Family Secretariat.
- (f) The nutritional status of communities in the area of Nahuaterique, Morazan is being closely assessed together with WFP Honduras and preliminary data are expected within the following days. Nahuaterique is a land area previously part of El Salvador and officially succeeded to Honduras. After a long running border dispute, the area has seen levels of poverty and subsequent malnutrition raise over the past decade, as the traditional logging industry has collapsed due to mismanagement and illegal timber cutting.

(6) Guatemala

- (a) Hurricane "Adrian" is threatening Central America, including Guatemala. The national Government had previously summoned boats from the sea and prepared evacuations.
- (b) President Berger of Guatemala traveled to the United States to join other Central American Presidents in a meeting with President Bush on 11 May to request his support to the Central America Free Trade Agreement (CAFTA). The US Parliament is expected to approve this trade deal.
- (c) Guatemala's Congress is analyzing reforms to the law on fuel distribution tax which could supersede the value added tax and consequently reduce the actual fuel prices to final consumers.
- (d) A Latin American Conference on Chronic Hunger, in the framework of the Millennium Development Goals, will be held in Guatemala from 11 to 13 September this year. The Ministry of Foreign Affairs is coordinating the preliminary work and a Technical Consultative Committee has been convened to act as the Secretariat of the Conference. WFP is part of the Committee, comprising nearly 20 organizations.
- (e) The National Coordinating Committee for Disaster Reduction (CONRED) met with the different institutions that are part of a network in order to present the National Contingency Plan for Rainfalls 2005. The plan is expected to be shared with regional authorities in the countryside with the aim to improve preparedness to respond to any emergency during the rainy season. First heavy rains of 14 May in the Municipality of San Marcos damaged 17 houses.
- (f) A total of 180 tons of maize, beans, corn-soya blend and vegetable oil were distributed to community-based centres in the Province of Huehuetenango for the nutritional

recovery of children under 5 years old and pregnant - nursing women suffering of acute malnutrition. This food distribution will benefit a total of 2,325 families (11,625 beneficiaries).

(7) Nicaragua

- (a) During the reporting period, tropical storms hit the country, causing the flooding of more than 300 houses in Managua. The heavy rains took the country by surprise as the rainy season was not expected to start until the end of May. More than 540.000 people were affected by the collapse of the public services caused by the heavy rains over the weekend. WFP is currently monitoring the situation in view of possible consequences of Hurricane Adrian.
- (b) Approximately 10,365 pregnant - nursing women; 11,160 children under 2 years old; 1,790 vulnerable rural families and 53,805 schoolchildren in the Central and Northern Atlantic Regions will benefit of food distributions under PRRO 10212.0
- (c) PRRO 10212.0 will face shortfalls of rice, beans, vegetable oil, maize and corn-soya blend through October 2005. If no commodities are announced in the coming months or those that are announced arrive late, PRRO will face serious pipeline breaks during the second semester of 2005.

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

WFP Weekly Emergency Report

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¹ [www.wfp.org] <http://www.wfp.org>

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