

World Food Programme Emergency Report 2005
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(A) Highlights

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(A) Highlights

- (a) After influxes of people into Ghana and Benin of people fleeing violence in Togo this week, WFP conducted assessments and is preparing for an immediate response emergency operation.
- (b) Ninja militias attacked a UN convoy carrying food in Republic of Congo.
- (c) Some 77,000 people need food and non-food items following heavy rains in Ethiopia.
- (d) WFP provided immediate food assistance to people affected by destructive heavy rainfall and flash floods in Somalia.
- (e) WFP distributed a one-month food ration to almost 29,000 drought-affected people living in vulnerable areas in Djibouti.
- (f) WFP distributed food to people affected by recent floodings in northern Ecuador.

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

(1) Burundi

- (a) The period of the transitional government was extended by four months to accommodate the election process. Starting 3 June through July, elections will be held on communal, parliamentary and senatorial levels; and Presidential elections will be organised on 19 August. The elected President will be sworn in on 26 August and grassroots leaders in collides will be elected on 23 September. This schedule was endorsed at the regional Heads of States summit held in Kampala on 22 April.
- (b) The leader of the Front for National Liberation (FNL) rebel movement has rejected the endorsement of any act of cessation of hostilities, but declared that he was ready to join the peace process. On the contrary, the main security incidents involved three attacks attributed to the FNL rebels, the last fighting movement, and the mop up operations against them carried out in Rukoko plain (Bubanza province) by the national forces. Armed banditry persists in the country.
- (c) The number of Rwandan asylum seekers continued to increase after the relocation of

more than 2,000 persons in two sites in Cankuzo and Ngozi provinces for temporary accommodation. An inter-agency needs assessment mission was carried out to evaluate their humanitarian needs. WFP has already provided food and is monitoring the situation. The governments of Burundi and Rwanda are in close contact to address the problem.

- (d) During the week under review, WFP distributed 1,730 tons of food aid to some 230,585 beneficiaries.
- (e) Following a request from the governor of Kirundo to maintain distributions for 80 percent of the population in the province, WFP conducted a rapid assessment in the area. Results will be shared in upcoming reports. The reinforcement of Food-For-Work (FFW) activities in Kirundo province will partly respond to the current food needs and consequently lower the volume of targeted distributions.
- (f) Pipeline breaks are expected in July for cereals, oils and salt. However, pulses can hold until September. Cereals breaks are anticipated from June and a shortage in all commodities could be faced in September.

(2) Congo

- (a) On 23 April, Ninja militias attacked a UN convoy. Valuables and equipment were looted from UN vehicles at a roadblock held by rebel militias. The UN convoy composed of UNICEF, UNDP, FAO, UNESCO, OCHA and UNFPA, was to deliver food aid. The local and international press, as well as donor representatives were part of the convoy. WFP staff planned to join the convoy later and were therefore not with them when the incident occurred. The UN convoy was released after negotiations between the Government's top official in the Pool region and the rebel's representative.
- (b) Despite the ongoing Demobilization, Disarmament and Reintegration process, bands of gunmen continue to pillage villages and hijack passengers and goods trains travelling through the Pool region.
- (c) Meanwhile, a WFP mission in the Pool region from 21 through 26 April, distributed tools, equipment and seeds for the school gardens. The mission also carried out training of teachers, parents and local communities in market gardening. The mission noted very large and enthusiastic local communities, participating voluntarily to assist with the school gardens. However, they also noted that in localities where schools were not regularly supplied with food, motivation was very low. Secondary transport of food to schools in the Pool region is still problematic and WFP is trying to find solutions.

(3) Congo, DR

- (a) The reinforcement of Congolese troops from the regular army, combined with patrol missions of UN peacekeeping soldiers in Ituri district did not prevent a lingering security situation in eastern DRC. Reports from Goma indicated repetitive acts of banditry and robbery involving gunmen mainly in Rutshuru, an area sheltering a high caseload of internally displaced persons (IDPs). WFP could not proceed with the monitoring of school feeding activities along the Kiwanja-Ishasa axis due to excess insecurity. According to the North Kivu UN security officer, three Forces Armées de la République Démocratique du Congo (FARDC) troops had reportedly been killed and four civilians wounded last week in Rutshuru. The Rwandan rebels (Interahawe) were suspected as the perpetrators.
- (b) In western DRC, focus was on the testing of voter registration equipment. On 22 April, the Independent Electoral Commission announced on the media that voter registration would only begin in early June, making it likely that the elections would not take place as scheduled.

- (c) The first 100 of some 58,000 refugees who have been living in the Republic of Congo (ROC) for the past six years started to return to Libenge (Equateur province), their area of origin. In an official ceremony held in Libenge, an audience consisting of officials from Government, UNHCR and WFP from both RoC and DRC witnessed the operation kick-start. By the end of 2006, a total of 24,000 refugees would be resettled in the Equateur province through a joint UNHCR/WFP programme.

(4) Djibouti

- (a) On 29 April, a press conference for the official launch of a UN inter-agency appeal in favour of the drought-affected population will be held at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs Office and chaired by the Minister in Charge of International Cooperation. Attendees include Government officials, all UN heads of agencies, the local press, as well as bilateral/multilateral donor representatives.
- (b) On 25 April, a similar appeal was made by the Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD) to donor Governments, humanitarian agencies, international and regional organizations to respond positively and expeditiously to avert a possible outbreak of a humanitarian crisis.
- (c) The current failure of two consecutive rainy seasons and the delay of the Diraa/Sougoum rains are undermining the food security and livelihood of rural households in three of six Djibouti rural livelihood zones. Water and pasture availability is limited and irregular migration of livestock and people have been observed in the majority of rural areas. Delayed rains and erratic rainfall patterns were insufficient to allow the replenishment of water catchments or the regeneration of pastures. Pastoralists from Djibouti and neighbouring areas in Somalia, Ethiopia and Eritrea were forced to continue seasonal grazing in coastal areas of Djibouti beyond the restorative capacities of the land.
- (d) In early April, a second multi-disciplinary, multi-agency joint assessment mission estimated that 5,900 families (28,650 people) are in need of emergency food aid, of which 60 percent (18,000 people) require safe drinking water. As a result, both the government and WFP started to distribute food rations to affected households in the Northwest Pastoral and the Southeast Pastoral sub-zones. So far, WFP has distributed about 570 tons of mixed commodities for a total value of USD 307,000 and equivalent to a one month ration to the 28,650 drought affected people living in vulnerable areas.
- (e) In addition, the majority of pastoralists and nomadic population are forced to concentrate on the coastal grazing areas, as the Diraa/Sougoum seasonal rains (March – April) have been below the expected normal levels. This livestock concentration caused overgrazing and depleted limited natural resources. Therefore, the Government of Djibouti requested a follow up mission to assess the situation and include the migrating nomadic population in food aid distribution. A more complete and detailed set of recommendations is set to emerge at the end of April, after the seasonal assessment, and WFP will be launching an Emergency Operation (EMOP) targeting 34,650 people.

(5) Eritrea

- (a) UN Peacekeepers are investigating two recent armed clashes on the Ethiopia-Eritrea border that left up to four people dead. The UN peacekeeping mission in Ethiopia and Eritrea (UNMEE) spokeswoman explained that the incidents probably involved cattle rustlers. About the same time, 32 Eritrea-trained raiders were reported to be killed by the Ethiopian army in the border area between Somalia and Ethiopia. This news came at the time when the Eritrean President informed senior officials in the opening session of the People's Front for Democracy and Justice (PFDJ) Central Office meeting that the

inevitability of war with Ethiopia is “a firm conclusion that we have reached”. This statement was immediately mitigated by the Vice Secretary General of Eritrea Democratic Alliance in Washington, who said, “Elements for war between Eritrea and Ethiopia are not present, both nations don’t have the capacity to conduct a war, hence war is not imminent.”

- (b) WFP observed land preparation commence in the central region following extensive rainfall in this region last week. According to officials from the Ministry of Agriculture in the southern region of Debub, the rural population is engaged in soil and water conservation schemes. These activities include land terracing and the construction of micro dams.
- (c) All WFP sub offices report drought conditions taking a toll on livestock. The animals are becoming emaciated due to lack of fodder and drought. Markets in the central region of Anseba were reported to be oversupplied with livestock as farmers try to sell those animals, which they can no longer feed. The price of a goat has fallen from 600 – 700 Nakfa in December 2004 to now 300 – 400 Nakfa (1.00 USD = 15.00 Nakfa).
- (d) As drought conditions have been prevailing for several years now, entire communities have become dependent on food aid for their survival. WFP’s sub office in the central region of Anseba reports that general feeding, the supplementary feeding programme for children under 5 and pregnant and nursing women, wet feeding at schools and supplementary food distributions by faith-based organizations have become the mainstay of communities’ food supply.
- (e) WFP commitment coverage for EMOP 10261.01 changed slightly and now stands at USD 41.6 million or approximately 116,830 tons food commodities. This amount covers 72 percent of this operation’s total food commodity requirements. Commitment coverage for PRRO 10192 increased by USD 400,000 to USD 42.8 million, representing 83 percent of operation requirements.

(6) Ethiopia

- (a) Heavy Gu season rains in Somali Region and rains in the neighboring highlands of Oromiya Region have caused severe flooding in several parts of Somali Region. The worst affected areas are West Imi district in Afder zone and East Imi district in Gode zone. Both districts are located along the Wabe Shabelle River that started flooding in the night between 22 and 23 April. The rains have also caused flooding further downstream on the Wabe Shebelle in Mustahil and Kelafo districts of Gode zone and in the east of the region in Kebribeyah district of Jijiga zone and Kebredehar district of Korahe zone. It is reported that thousands of homes have been swept away and according to latest government estimates the death toll has reached 83. The floods have also caused severe damage to property and farmland.
- (b) A government team is currently assessing the situation in West Imi and East Imi, but both the government and relief agencies have already responded to the emergency, sending plastic sheeting, blankets, jerry cans and high energy biscuits. The regional Disaster Prevention and Preparedness Bureau has requested the federal Disaster Prevention and Preparedness Commission to provide food and non-food items for an initial 77,000 people, a figure which may be adjusted as further information becomes available. However, transportation to the affected areas remains problematic, as the rains have made many roads impassable, with West Imi and East Imi currently only accessible by helicopter with carrying capacity of only three tons of food at a time.
- (c) WFP has supplementary food (fortified corn-soya blend) stocks in the region that are being mobilized for flood victims. Water and sanitation experts are being sent by UNICEF to Gode, the main town closest to the affected areas along the Wabe Shebelle, to train people in the use of water purification equipment and techniques, and NGOs

working in the region are also responding to medical, water and sanitation needs. Coordination meetings of the agencies involved are being held in the regional capital Jijiga, and in Gode.

- (d) In addition to the Gu rains, which are falling in wide areas of Somali Region, the Belg rains in other parts of the country have continued and in some areas intensified. Rain is now reported in some of the lowland areas of high humanitarian concern in Sidama and Wolayita zones of Southern Nations, Nationalities and Peoples Region, areas where recently the water supply situation had been a serious problem.

(7) Kenya

- (a) Two million Kenyans – particularly in the arid and semi-arid lands in the northern and eastern parts of the country – will need food assistance until August, despite a general improvement in weather conditions. The current food crisis is particularly acute in Kajiado district, where the number of people in need of food aid has tripled. The cumulative effect of the total failure of the rains in 2004, and two poor rainy seasons in 2003, is now life threatening. Rain failure at crucial growing times has severely affected production, particularly of maize, the country's staple food. Maize prices in key markets around the country are a prohibitive 20 to 70 percent above normal. Furthermore, livestock died, calves are being killed to save the cows and milk production is almost nil, harming both people's diet and purchasing power. Meanwhile, health centres report an increase in malnutrition – 30 percent of the children seeking medical assistance are underweight compared to six percent in regular years.
- (b) Between May and August, WFP plans to provide 83,000 tons of food aid to 1.6 million drought-affected people, plus an additional 420,000 school children. WFP will provide various levels of assistance according to needs. An average of one million people worst hit by the drought will receive general food rations. Another 600,000 in areas which have been less severely affected, food aid will be distributed through a combination of Food-For-Work projects for the rebuilding of infrastructure such as water development and environmental protection, or through assistance targeted at the most vulnerable elements of the community.
- (c) WFP is also extending its school feeding programme – which normally provides a nutritious daily meal to one million school children in Kenya – to an additional 420,000 pre-primary and primary pupils in drought-affected regions.
- (d) Since the beginning of the emergency operation to assist drought stricken Kenyans in August 2004, the Government of Kenya has donated 65,000 tons of maize, making it one of the main contributors to the operation. Other donors have also contributed, however, WFP still has a shortfall of 52,000 tons, worth USD 28 million; this represents a shortfall of almost 63 percent against the requirements.

(8) Rwanda

- (a) Reports in the international media indicate that 2,000 Rwandans have crossed the border into Burundi and more than 1,000 into Uganda. Fear of indictment in the country's traditional justice system known as "Gacaca" may have caused many of the people to leave the country. However, the influx of Congolese and Burundian refugees has continued, including an increase in the number of Rwandan returnees from DRC.
- (b) On 14 April, about 6,000 sub-machine guns, together with many other weapons (with 250 tons still to go) were destroyed in a ceremony attended by ministers, senior military officers and diplomats. According to a Government official, this move aimed at creating a violence free nation, free from unlicensed arms and ammunitions. Rwanda joins Kenya and Tanzania in implementing the 2000 Nairobi protocol, which binds all 11 countries in the sub-region to destroy illegal arms and light weapons.

- (c) During the past week, 110 Burundian new arrivals were registered in Nyamure and Gikonko Transit camps. There were 350 Burundians reportedly not yet resettled in Nyamure camp. An additional 431 Congolese arrived at Nkamira camp in Gisenyi, while there were no changes in other camps. According to UNHCR, the first contingent of 400 refugees will be transferred to Byumba during the current week. The total number of Congolese (46,300) and Burundian (6,449) refugees currently in Rwanda now stands at 52,749.
- (d) Some 2,225 beneficiaries received a 14-day ration in Nyagatare Camp and approximately 4 tons of food commodities were provided to some 430 Congolese new arrivals.
- (e) According to UNHCR, 200 Rwandan returnees are expected per week during the following months. A total of 550 returnees from Congo were received in two Transit Centers. A three-month ration was provided prior to their transfer to their places of origin.
- (f) A workshop on HIV/AIDS was held from 21 to 22 April in Kibungo. About 70 participants from different organizations (Government, NGOs, Associations, among others) attended the workshop organized by the provincial commission designated to combat against HIV/AIDS. Participants expressed the urgent need of food aid for People Living with HIV/AIDS (PLWHA) in order to cope with ARVs and appealed for assistance from all partners, especially WFP.

(9) Somalia

- (a) The conflict in El Wak on the Kenya, Somalia and Ethiopia border continued into its third week, resulting in the displacement of close to 15,000 people, while agencies are unable to carry out a needs assessment due to the on-going conflict on the Somali side.
- (b) Security of humanitarian aid workers continues to be an issue of concern in most parts of Somalia following the killing of a Somali nurse in Mogadishu while she was enroute to conduct health awareness training in one of the hospitals.
- (c) Heavy localized rainfall in the northwest, including parts of Awdal region, fell over agropastoral areas stretching all the way to the Ethiopian border and resulted in replenished water sources. Meanwhile in Hargeisa town, a sudden torrential downpour created flash floods that destroyed the main bridge connecting the western part of the city to the eastern side. WFP immediately responded with 9 tons of food commodities distributed to 170 severely affected households. Heavy rain has also been reported in parts of Gedo, and lower Shabelle regions in the south. A good 'Gu' season performance is expected to support the recovery process that is gradually taking place in most parts of Somalia.
- (d) Heavy 'Gu' rains reported in the Ethiopian highlands and the eastern region of Ethiopia bordering Somalia pose serious dangers of floods in the down stream rivers of Shabelle and Juba. In the case of the latter, rains were already reported, thereby threatening the farming activities of the communities along the banks of the two main rivers.
- (e) WFP Somalia continues to support the Tsunami affected communities along the northeast coastline, with the dispatch of 310 tons of food commodities to the various villages in the fourth round monthly distributions aimed at reaching some of the 30,000 beneficiaries, while rehabilitation of livelihood assets through Food-For-Work activities have also been started.

(10) Sudan

- (a) DARFUR:
- (b) Continued conflict and increased insecurity, coupled with the poorer-than-expected

2004 harvest have indicated that the humanitarian situation in Darfur is rapidly deteriorating. WHO will undertake a second mortality survey covering some 60 locations in Darfur between May and June. The survey will cover both internally displaced persons (IDPs) and affected host communities. The preliminary report is expected to be released by mid-June. WFP is preparing to provide emergency food assistance for more than 3 million people at the peak of the hunger period from July to October 2005.

- (c) Dispatches from the three Darfur state capitals to Cooperating Partners (CPs) between 1 and 23 April total 26,095 tons, reaching an estimated 1.37 million beneficiaries (based on dispatches).
- (d) Admissions to therapeutic and supplementary feeding centers in Kabkabiyah, El Fasher town and Abu Shouk IDP camp in North Darfur were reported as stable. However, commercial transporters are increasingly reluctant to deliver food to Malha and northwest Kutum in North Darfur, following incidents of convoys being stopped and denied access to Malha at various checkpoints.
- (e) Jebel Moon in West Darfur is now a NO GO area, following an incident where four youths of the National Movement for Reform and Development group (NMRD) tampered with a grenade, which exploded, killing one and wounding the other three individuals.
- (f) Delivering food to South Darfur continues to be difficult, due to the mandatory Government of Sudan (GoS) imposition for escorts. However, the number of attacks on trucks along the main access roads in South Darfur appears to have declined during the past week.
- (g) Ongoing repairs at Khartoum Airport, expected to continue up to 10 May, continues to place major constraints on WFP's Humanitarian Air Services operational capacity. During the past week, the airport closure was brought forward by 30 minutes from 09:00 to 08:30 hours. Air Traffic Control also announced that cargo aircrafts would not be able to land before 2000 hours.
- (h) The use of the Libya corridor to better service the Sudanese refugees in Chad has also benefited WFP's ability to augment road and air deliveries to Darfur. On 25 April, 19 trucks loaded with 380 tons of commodities arrived safely from Abeche, Chad to El Geneina. During the week, the Government of Sudan (GoS) also agreed to allow WFP to airlift food from Al Khufra in southeast Libya to El Fasher and Nyala. WFP expects the official clearance for landing permits to become available in the coming days.
- (i) WFP has finalized the contract for the local procurement of 2,960 tons of sugar and some 700 tons has been dispatched to Darfur from Khartoum and El Obeid. WFP has prioritized the need to increase storage capacity in areas south and southeast of El Geneina (Habla, Foroburanga), and has pre-positioned 4,905 tons in West Darfur in April, approximately 78 percent of the planned 6,325 tons for the month.
- (j) WFP will no longer need to cut non-cereal rations by half from May following a donor's decision to redirect approximately 14,000 tons of non-cereals already on the high seas. As of 25 April, the Darfur EMOP 10339.1 faces a shortfall of USD 186 million, representing 40 percent of total requirements (USD 467.1 million). The Special Operation for logistics support in Darfur continues to face a shortfall of USD 25 million. The procurement of 100 long-haul trucks is on hold until funds are made available.
- (k) WFP Humanitarian Air Services, which provides services to the entire humanitarian community in Sudan, faces a shortfall of USD 17 million. With monthly operating costs of USD 2 million, funds are immediately required to ensure that existing contracts are extended for the coming months.
- (l) SOUTH, EAST AND TRANSITIONAL AREAS (SETA):

- (m) A joint inter-agency needs assessment, including WFP, in Eastern Equatoria was suspended when the Lord's Resistance Army (LRA) attacked Nimule locality. Nimule, Parajok, and Labone are now considered Security Phase Level III, according to the UN Department of Safety and Security (UNDSS), with surrounding roads classified Level IV.
- (n) The security situation remains fragile in some areas in Unity State, as a result of ethnic clashes. In localities southwest of West Kordofan, repeated attacks by bandits along the main road corridors continue. WFP has not been able to access these areas since UNDSS classified these areas as NO GO in October 2004.
- (o) Dispatches to locations also continue to be affected by the limited commercial transport capacity out of Port Sudan to logistics hubs in El Obeid and Kosti as well as heavy rains that started in parts of Bahr El Ghazal.
- (p) On the other hand, WFP expects significant improvements in its deliveries to Bahr El Ghazal now that the Sudan Peoples Liberation Movement/Army (SPLM/A) has granted WFP free access through areas under their control. Between 1 and 21 April, a total of over 610 tons of mixed commodities has been delivered to Aweil and received by CARE.
- (q) Two-week transit rations were distributed to 515 returnees who arrived in Bazia, from Mabia IDP camp, Tambura, Western Equatoria. An additional 6,000 returnees are reportedly en route via the Central Africa Republic border towards Wau, Bahr El Ghazal. WFP will start airdropping two-week transit rations for these returnees currently located around Yakuma, some 100 km northwest of Mabia IDP camp, once an airdrop zone is identified.
- (r) The nutritional situation of people in Bentiu and Rubkona in Unity State remains a serious concern with increases in admission rates at supplementary and therapeutic feeding programmes. WFP continues to provide food assistance to supplementary and therapeutic feeding centres run by Action Contre la Faim (ACF) and Médecins Sans Frontières (MSF) and has provided general food distributions to the most vulnerable population.
- (s) WFP will present findings of the recently concluded multi-agency Rapid Field Assessment in Central Sudan and GoS-controlled areas of South Sudan to participating agencies, NGOs and donors on 28 April. The inter-agency cross line mission to Upper Nile has been delayed by a week due to logistical and administrative constraints. The mission will take place on 2 May in priority areas in the Upper Nile, commencing with the Tonga/Zeraf corridor followed by the Sobat and Kodok corridors.
- (t) EMOP 10048.3 faces a 78 percent shortfall against its operational requirements. Immediate pipeline breaks will directly affect the food distribution and the nutritional status of more than 2.5 million targeted beneficiaries during the critical hunger period of July and August. Urgent contributions are immediately needed to respond to the pressing food requirements in the coming months to allow commodities to be pre-positioned before the onset of the rainy season.

(11) Tanzania

- (a) More than 1,000 refugees have voluntarily repatriated to Burundi between 1 April and 15 April.
- (b) Over 400,000 beneficiaries received 1,700 tons of food through general distribution, supplementary feeding and therapeutic feeding in refugee camps in western Tanzania. Some 10,100 Tanzanians in the host communities surrounding the camps were supported with WFP host community activities.
- (c) WFP is currently distributing reduced rations due to funding shortfalls. Refugees are

receiving about 1,617 Kcal per day, which is 87 percent of the usual 1,857 Kcal level. The current ration levels apply from 14 March to 15 June 2005 and could continue longer if new contributions are not confirmed. Breaks in the pipeline are anticipated for pulses and oil in May due to delay in expected arrivals of international shipments.

- (d) WFP is preparing the final hand-over of the Extended Delivery Point (EDP) in Kasulu/Mtabila to Tanzania Red Cross. This process will be concluded when the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) and loan property forms are finalized.
- (e) The PRRO faces an overall shortfall of 35,350 tons up to 31 January 2006, where it has to be noted that the figure is based on 100 percent rations (1,857 Kcal), not on the recently proposed 2,100 Kcal ration level, which has not yet been approved by WFP's Executive Board. Once the new kilocalorie level is approved, WFP will calculate the tonnage required and modify the pipeline accordingly.

(12) Uganda

- (a) The chief negotiator between the Government and the Lord's Resistance Army (LRA), has indicated that there is "hope for another round of peace talks between the LRA rebels and the government". The chief negotiator, who has been in contact with the LRA top leadership, recently appealed to the LRA to stop the atrocities against civilians in the northern Acholi and Lango sub-regions in the interest of peace. The LRA rebels continue to kill, abduct and terrorize civilians in the Acholi and Lango sub-regions.
- (b) Preliminary findings of a WFP/UNICEF-supported Action Contre la Faim (ACF) USA nutrition assessment in Apac district in March indicate a Global Acute Malnutrition rate of 4.4 percent and Severe Acute Malnutrition rate of 1.4 percent; crude mortality rate was 1.4 deaths per 10,000 people per day. Preliminary findings of an ACF-USA nutrition survey conducted in February/March 2005 in 25 IDP camps in Lira district indicated an overall Global Acute Malnutrition rate of 2.5 percent and Severe Acute Malnutrition rate of 0.2 percent.
- (c) Over the past two weeks, there has been an influx of Rwandan refugees seeking asylum in Oruchinga and Nakivale refugee settlements. The new arrivals are said to be fleeing Rwanda for fear of prosecution in the Gacaca courts (traditional courts). The new arrivals in Oruchinga have been advised to stay in repatriation centres and be registered by the Department of Refugees (Office of the Prime Minister). To date, over 1,435 people have been registered. The Government (Ministry for Disaster Preparedness) and UNHCR will meet to discuss the fate of the new caseload.
- (d) WFP food distribution continues to reach 1.4 million displaced persons, 192,000 refugees and other vulnerable persons. During the period 11 to 22 April 2005, WFP distributed about 5,425 tons of relief food assistance to 488,050 persons including IDPs sheltering in camps in Gulu, Pader districts, refugees, children in nutrition centers and other vulnerable persons.
- (e) WFP faces a shortfall of 99,380 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.

(C) West Africa: (1) West Africa Coastal region (2) Benin (3) Chad (4) Cote d'Ivoire (5) Ghana (6) Liberia (7) Sierra Leone

(1) West Africa Coastal region

- (a) Through the regional West Africa Coastal 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 and Food-For-Training, have been reduced and/or suspended. While general rations for refugees, IDPs and returnees are continuing, distribution of reduced rations is continuing in Liberia and Guinea and starting next month, WFP will also be forced to distribute reduced rations to refugees in Sierra Leone. Additional donor support is urgently needed in order to enable distribution of full rations and full implementation of normalizing programmes like school feeding and food for work.

(2) Benin

- (a) In Benin, a joint UNHCR / WFP / UNICEF mission was fielded to assess the situation on 28 April after reportedly Togolese people, following violence resulting from presidential elections, had crossed the border into Benin. One team of the mission went to Hillacondji and another one at the proposed campsite of Comé. Their main findings are the following: population from Aného was still fleeing into Benin. At 11:00 am, a total number of 2,980 were registered (since Monday). However the Togo border reopened at 02:00 pm (it had been closed since Friday, 22 April). Consequently, at 05:00 pm, the total number had increased to 5,390 and still many people were still arriving. There is another large group of people waiting to travel to Cotonou. A total of 1,285 children and 65 pregnant women are registered within the 5,390 people. The trend of the influx today indicates that whole families of refugees are coming. More in-depth needs assessments will be conducted if the trend continues.
- (b) WFP Benin is preparing an Immediate Response Emergency Operation (EMOP) of USD 500,000, which will cater for a short-term temporary assistance for people on the move through transit centres. This will be done through the use of High Energy Biscuits (HEB). An average ration of three days will be given in order for people in-transit to be registered before they proceed either in a refugee camp or in host communities.

(3) Chad

- (a) The security situation continues to be relatively calm in eastern Chad with minor clashes reported around the refugee camps, having no negative impact on WFP humanitarian operations.
- (b) The overall nutritional situation is relatively stable in the refugee camps. Recent Médecins Sans Frontières reports indicate 0 cases of Kwashiorkor, Meningitis and Hepatitis E in Touloum and Iridimi camps. While efforts are underway to improve sanitation in the camps, water provision remains very problematic and requires improvement.
- (c) The WFP planned caseload figure for April stands at approximately 199,000 refugees. Census/registration errors in some camps remain an area of concern and are affecting WFP distributions. A number of meetings were held between WFP and UNHCR to tackle this issue during which it was decided to continue verification processes and sensitise refugees about the consequences of forgery. WFP will assist in the first transfer of some 5,000 refugees to the new camp site of Gaga, which should be ready by the first of May.
- (d) WFP general distributions were completed in all camps, except Touloum and Iridimi. A total of 161,280 beneficiaries were assisted with more than 2,750 tons of food. They received full food rations, representing 2,069 Kcal/person/day. Distributions in Touloum and Iridimi had been temporarily suspended since 24 April as a result of registration problems, including missing names on Master lists, absence of registered refugees, and forged food ration cards. WFP Blanket Supplementary Feeding in Touloum and Iridimi

camps was also delayed due to problems faced during general distributions. A post distribution monitoring exercise will be conducted in Am Nabak, Kounoungou, Touloum, Bredjing and Treguine.

- (e) WFP Food-For-Work (FFW) activities for host communities are ongoing in the targeted zones of intervention, as indicated in the table below. From 21 to 27 April, WFP provided 6.125 tons of food to some 100 Food-For-Work beneficiaries in Iriba-Tine.
- (f) From 16 April to date, WFP-Humanitarian Air Services served a total of 312 passengers to the destinations of Abéché, Bahai, Goz Beida, Guereda, N'Djamena, and Mongo.
- (g) A convoy of about 50 trucks carrying over 1,200 tons of food through the Libyan corridor has arrived in Bahai and a first convoy of 63 trucks to take the new Biltine-Faya route has crossed the border, carrying a total of 1,530 tons of commodities.
- (h) WFP is increasing its warehouse capacity by installing more wickhalls to accommodate the ongoing stock pre-positioning. It is equally reinforcing its logistics capacities by recruiting a number of convoy leaders in support of the Libyan corridor.
- (i) A USAID/OFDA mission completed a visit to eastern Chad during which WFP sub-offices and project sites were visited, and meetings with local authorities as well as Cooperating Partners took place. The mission paid particular interest to ongoing WFP FFW activities for host communities.
- (j) To date, WFP's current Emergency Operation (EMOP), ending in June, is resourced at 84.41 percent with a shortfall of USD 9.6 million. Urgent funding is required under the new EMOP to allow stock pre-positioning for the rainy season and meet needs from July to October. An additional USD 7 million is urgently required to keep the WFP-operated air service functioning beyond May. If funds are not received by that time, WFP will be obliged to suspend air services in eastern Chad. WFP also needs funds for its special logistics operation (SO 10390.0) to allow it to reinforce its presence in the field warehouses and for operational support related to logistics and ICT augmentation. Up to now, only 32.8 percent have been confirmed against the SO, equivalent to a shortfall of USD 4.3 million.

(4) Cote d'Ivoire

- (a) From 21 to 27 April, more than 500 tons of food were distributed to over 55,000 people. This included approximately 28,000 children who are being fed through the school feeding programme. According to the Post Distribution Monitoring exercises carried out, a second month of assistance is recommended in Boli (southeast of Bouake) until the community can begin their planting and finish building their houses. A second distribution is also recommended for IDPs temporarily living in Raviart.

(5) Ghana

- (a) Following the violence resulting from the presidential elections in Togo, about 600 people have reportedly crossed the border from Togo into neighbouring Ghana. WFP and UNHCR conducted a joint border assessment mission on 28 April to assess the general situation and to identify food needs of arriving populations. In response to this initial influx of people and to prepare should additional Togolese move into Ghana, WFP is preparing to launch a USD 500,000 Immediate Response Emergency Operation which will provide short-term assistance of high energy biscuits at 13 potential reception sites along the border. From the reception centres, refugees will either be directed to transit centres or they will move in with host communities. For those who will stay in transit centres, WFP plans to distribute wet rations for an initial period of 2-3 days.

(6) Liberia

- (a) From 20 to 26 April, more than 280,000 vulnerable beneficiaries received 2,000 tons of WFP provided food in Liberia. This included the distribution of (reduced) general rations to nearly 70,000 vulnerable beneficiaries (mainly IDPs living in camps), as well as nearly 190,000 children who were fed through the emergency school feeding programme.
- (b) For the first time in several years, school children in River Cess County were fed through WFP's emergency school feeding programme; WFP provided hot lunches for 9,200 children in 52 schools of the County. Access to River Cess has been limited due to deplorable road conditions and a lack of implementing partners in the area. Recent work to rehabilitate the roads and repair small bridges has facilitated the passage of trucks, including WFP supplies. WFP is among the very few humanitarian agencies to be operational in all the accessible areas of this very remote County.
- (c) Construction of a Wiik Hall at WFP's Buchanan sub-office began during the week. This construction is part of an initiative aimed at increasing the storage capacities in the various WFP Sub Offices, with a view to pre-positioning enough food stocks up-country for WFP supported programmes during the rainy season.

(7) Sierra Leone

- (a) During the month of March, WFP distributed more than 1,000 tons of food commodities to over 340,000 beneficiaries, including nearly 100,000 children who were fed through the emergency school feeding programme.
- (b) The field work for the "Food Security & Vulnerability Survey combined with the Crop Production Survey and Health & Nutrition Survey" started mid March. This initiative covers all districts in Sierra Leone and is being carried out by an inter-agency team including WFP, UNICEF, FAO, UNDP, WHO, Ministry of Health and Sanitation (MOHS), Statistics Sierra Leone, Ministry of Agriculture Forestry and Food Security (MAFFS) and the Consortium for Rehabilitation and Development (which includes CARE, World Vision, CRS and Africare). The field work is expected to end by mid April.
- (c) WFP and UNICEF, in collaboration with the Ministry of Health and Sanitation and the Ministry of Education, Science and Technology, have commenced the preparation activities for de-worming all primary school children between 6-14 years in eight selected districts.

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

- (a) A recent FEWS-Net report has confirmed earlier predictions of generally unfavourable agricultural yields in 2005. Abnormally high rainfall deficits have resulted in reduced soil moisture, stressed pastures, and low river levels across a wide area of southeastern Africa. Specifically, southern and central Mozambique, southern Malawi, southern and eastern Zimbabwe are experiencing widespread crop failures. Southern parts of Mozambique are the worst affected, especially Gaza and Inhamambane. Zimbabwe's Manicaland and Masvingo provinces are also experiencing severe conditions. In addition, southern Zambia, central Malawi and northeastern Namibia continue to suffer as a result of a dry spell, which occurred during a crucial period of crop development from February through mid-March. Some small areas in the Midlands and Mashonaland, Zimbabwe escaped the dry spell, however the negatively affected regions far outnumber those spared.

(2) Angola

- (a) WFP continues to support the Government of Angola and all UN efforts to halt the

spread of the Marburg Virus in Uige Province. To date, WFP air services have transported 100 tons of food, 100 humanitarian workers and medical staff, as well as 10 tons of medical equipment and supplies to assist the control of the outbreak.

- (b) The first of 12 wooden bridges to be constructed in Moxico Province was completed in Lumbala N'guimbo in March. During the first week of April, the second of the 12 bridges in Lucusse locality commenced. The project is coordinated by WFP in collaboration with the Instituto Nacional de Estradas de Angola (INEA). Norwegian People's Aid (NPA) and the Mine Advisory Group (MAG) are carrying out de-mining activities. WFP will also rehabilitate 22 metal bridges in Moxico, Bie' and Lunda Sul provinces.
- (c) As reported previously, Angola's Protracted Relief and Recovery Operation, PRRO 10054.2, Assistance to War Affected People, continues to be severely under-funded. The project requires approximately USD 24 million or 36,000 tons of food until the end of 2005. While distribution cuts have already been imposed, without immediate new contributions WFP will have to introduce even more severe ration reductions in the coming months.

(3) Lesotho

- (a) Second quarter beneficiary distributions are underway and proceeding well. During 20 to 26 April, a total of 1,330 tons of food aid were distributed to 93,130 people participating in projects supporting mother and child health care and home-based HIV/AIDS and tuberculosis patients. Additional programmes support orphans and other vulnerable children as well as vulnerable group feeding and Food-For-Work participants.

(4) Malawi

- (a) The FAO/WFP Crop and Food Supply Assessment Mission are in country and have held initial meetings with all major stakeholders.
- (b) From 21 to 27 April, approximately 1,775 tons of WFP provided food were dispatched for subsequent distributions.
- (c) Food-for-work participants have constructed three roads linking health clinics and beneficiaries' villages around Dzaleka refugee camp. In addition, three quarters of an acre has been planted with cassava cuttings obtained from the FAO Rural Development Project in Dowa District, and 2,500 trees were planted in three villages surrounding the camp.

(5) Mozambique

- (a) The joint FAO/WFP Crop and Food Supply Assessment Mission (CFSAM) and the Vulnerability Assessment Committee (VAC) teams are currently in the field collecting agricultural information. The VAC data analysis will take place in mid-May and official results are scheduled on 22 May.
- (b) There will be a technical consultation with the Ministry of Agriculture on crop forecasts and VAC results. The CFSAM's report is expected from 15 to 20 May.

(6) Swaziland

- (a) The joint FAO/WFP Crop and Food Supply Assessment Mission is scheduled to take place from 1 through 13 May. The two-week mission will involve briefings with relevant institutes and agencies along with extensive field visits.

(7) Zambia

- (a) The 2004/05-rainfall season has ended prematurely in most districts of southern

Zambia. Although occasional showers were reported in some districts in March, they were poorly distributed and insignificant to support crop growth. With results from official agricultural assessments pending, a 50 to 95 percent crop failure has been reported in some areas.

(8) Zimbabwe

- (a) The current fuel crisis has increased as seen from endless queues at fuel service stations. At the same time, the country is experiencing erratic electricity and water supplies resulting from a lack of funds to replace faulty machine parts. Worst affected by the fuel crisis is public transport, as drivers spend their time in fuel queues. Shortages of basic commodities, including maize products, continues for the fourth week.
- (b) The Government is conducting random audits of non-governmental organizations (NGOs) that ran humanitarian programmes in 2004. The audits are meant to provide detailed information on how the NGOs used the funds raised for humanitarian activities.

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

(1) Bangladesh

- (a) The country is starting to experience significant rainfall, and daytime temperatures are rising steadily, signalling the onset of the monsoon. The harvest has begun on a limited scale in some parts of the country.
- (b) EMOP 10380, Assistance to Flood Affected People in Bangladesh, has completed its 8th month. The WFP part of the Supplementary Feeding programme, that forms part of the EMOP, has been terminated as scheduled. The programme is a joint venture programme of UNICEF and WFP. UNICEF is now feeding the same beneficiaries, and will continue until the end of August of this year.
- (c) The School-Feeding programme (HEB) is planned to continue until July, when the EMOP will end. Over 600,000 children receive high-energy biscuits under the programme.
- (d) Food-For-Work and Food-For-Asset activities are ongoing in four districts. Under these activities, some 1000 tons of food were distributed to 117,500 project participants in March.
- (e) For its Rural Livelihoods Support programme, WFP will distribute cereals and vegetable oil through Government and NGO channels respectively. WFP has requested the concerned ministry to kindly issue instructions for the urgent completion of preparatory actions, e.g., selection of beneficiaries, and other necessary works, in connection with the proposed distribution. NGOs will distribute 170 tons of vegetable oil in balance.
- (f) At present, resourcing levels of the EMOP stand at 46.81 percent.

(2) Indonesia

- (a) At least two clashes between the Indonesian Army (TNI) and Free Aceh Movement (GAM) have been reported since last week, in which one GAM rebel and one civilian were killed. A curfew was set from 20:00 hrs to 04:00 hrs, especially for international staff, in Lamno and Aceh Jaya.
- (b) Reportedly a flood occurred in Badar Sub-district, Aceh Tenggara, on 27 April, killing 9 people and damaging 50 houses. At the moment the number of displaced people is 300. There has been no official request to WFP for assistance.
- (c) Strong earthquakes have been experienced in Nias on 27 and 28 April. For the

moment, no safety incidents related to the earthquake have been reported.

- (d) A 2-day food needs assessment was completed in Mandailing Natal District in North Sumatra Province. The visit was made to Tabuyung village, Natal, where reportedly 80 percent of the houses were heavily damaged and an estimated 2,230 were displaced by the 28 March earthquake. A report will be issued by the end of this week.
- (e) POSKO (command centre) Medan indicated that the presence of UN Agencies and International NGOs is still needed during the rehabilitation and reconstruction phase in Nias.
- (f) Monthly distributions have progressed to cover a total of 720,000 planned beneficiaries in Aceh and North Sumatra.
- (g) Save the Children has completed distribution of WFP provided food to 35,350 IDPs so far in April. It expects to complete the April distribution cycle by 12 May. The distribution of a one-time, two-week ration has started in Sibolga and Pandang camps for approximately 20,700 beneficiaries. The 5 tons of food delivered was split between the 2 areas. Following a joint WFP/World Vision assessment on the number of beneficiaries in Kajhu Temporary Living Centre (TLC), in Baitussalam sub district of Aceh Besar, food distribution was temporarily postponed as a proper list of beneficiaries was not made available. The distribution will resume as soon as the list is provided by the TLC coordinator.
- (h) Continuous efforts have been made to increase coverage of the schools targeted for WFP school feeding activities throughout Aceh Province. Schools in Aceh Utara and Lhokseumawe have been provided with biscuits to cover their needs from 1 May to 10 June, at which point, the schools close for summer break. WFP has directly delivered the biscuits. The programme in both districts will be taken over by PMI (Indonesian Red Cross) in May.
- (i) WFP is planning to start a health intervention programme in Aceh Utara district, which has shown a high level of prevalence of malnutrition according to recently conducted nutrition survey led by the Government and supported by UN agencies and NGOs. A pre-assessment trip was conducted to Aceh Utara for possible implementation of a MCH (Mother Child Health) programme in satellite health posts.

(3) Korea (DPR)

- (a) The PDC rations remains at 250 grams/person/day, less than 50 percent of the daily energy requirements. It was further reported that the ration will continue to be 250 grams until June, but that it will decrease to 200 gram from July. Due to low level of the PDC ration, people have to find alternative coping mechanisms. Wild vegetables and spring vegetables are starting to become available. Vegetables collected earlier in autumn are still being consumed. Families who have relatives living in the rural areas or relatives with kitchen gardens can also rely on receiving some support.
- (b) Unless new donations of cereals are made quickly, WFP will be forced to suspend assistance to elderly people, primary school children (take-home ration) 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. Production in WFP-supported factories producing fortified food for children and PNWs will be maintained until end-August, and assistance to orphanages and hospitals until end-September.

(4) Maldives

- (a) The Vulnerable Group Feeding Programme has identified 40,295 beneficiaries for the April distribution cycle. The beneficiaries include IDPs, host communities and affected

livelihood groups. Distributions have started and will include rice, pulses, oil and sugar.

- (b) A WFP Assessment mission is planned to take place between 1-6 May, to review the Government of Maldives' request to extend the Vulnerable Group Feeding Programme.

(5) Sri Lanka

- (a) The internecine warfare between Tamil factions in the East of Sri Lanka is continuing; 2 persons were killed and 5 injured in the last few days. The LTTE (Liberation of Tamil Tigers Eelam) and government forces continue to report shots fired over each others positions in Trincomalee. None of the security incidents have affected WFP operations.
- (b) WFP in Sri Lanka is currently focused on streamlining the whole operation by documenting actual numbers of WFP beneficiaries, actual food distributed, M&E systems and the EMOP exit strategy, in order to prepare for Needs assessment; M&E, Food Aid Information Management; and Real Time Evaluation missions next month.

(F) Latin America and Caribbean: (1) Bolivia (2) Colombia (3) Cuba (4) Ecuador (5) El Salvador (6) Guatemala (7) Haiti (8) Honduras (9) Nicaragua (10) Peru

(1) Bolivia

- (a) Last week, road blockades were lifted, as protesters reached an agreement with the government. However, indigenous people, together with the teachers' federation, have confirmed their intention to paralyze the country with roadblocks starting next week (May 2nd) in demand for the nationalization of hydrocarbons.
- (b) WFP, together with Civil Defence, is assessing damage caused by hailstorms and the needs of some 180 affected families in the region between Potosí and Chuquisaca.

(2) Colombia

- (a) The International Committee of the Red Cross and WFP have officially released the results of a joint assessment of food and other basic needs among IDPs in six Colombian provinces, carried out by both institutions during 2004. Lack of a steady income; inadequate housing, health services and education; and poor hygiene and sanitation all exacerbate food and economic insecurity. The data collected show that displaced families spend 58 percent of their scant resources on food, most of the rest on housing and public services (water, electricity and gas) and only 6 percent and 3 percent, respectively, on health and education.
- (b) The situation remains volatile in nearby areas of the municipality of Toribio, province of Cauca, where at least 3,000 people have been forced to flee due to clashes between the Colombian army and illegal armed groups in the past few days. Clashes started on 14 April, when members of an illegal armed group using home made rockets attacked the municipality twice in less than 72 hours. According to information issued by different organizations with a presence in the area, these clashes could last up to three more weeks. The Colombian Red Cross has announced that an initial cargo of 15 tons of food aid for some 400 people was delivered in the municipality of Caloto (about 20 miles from Toribio) and they are expecting to deliver an additional 15 tons of food in Toribio as soon as the security conditions are suitable. WFP visited the area to evaluate the conditions, in order to provide emergency food aid if requested.
- (c) New displacements have been reported in the province of Choco, where at least 285 families (1050 people members of 8 different indigenous communities) located on the banks of the Baudó river, were forced to flee due to threatens from illegal armed groups. These families are temporarily settled in the municipality of Pizarro and in rural areas of Villa María and San Miguel. The Colombian Government has informed that

these families, in particular the ones located in rural areas of Villa María and San Miguel, are facing blockades, difficult overcrowding situation and lack of food supplies. WFP is implementing more than 160 food aid activities in this province as part of PRRO 0158.

- (d) A massive displacement was also reported in the province of Bolívar, where some 168 people from rural areas of La Haya fled towards the municipality of Juan Nepomuceno and María la Baja after receiving threats and warnings by an illegal armed group. These people have not received any humanitarian assistance yet.
- (e) A massacre in the port city of Buenaventura (province of Valle del Cauca) that left 12 young men dead, could have been a "social cleansing" attack carried out by members of an illegal armed group. Colombian authorities have said that there are strong possibilities that the killing of the men, between age 18 and 24, was performed by right wing rebels. Buenaventura is the largest Colombian port city on the Pacific coast. WFP has no food aid activities in the province of Valle del Cauca as part of PRRO 10158, but is evaluating the possibility of opening a new Sub-Office in this province as part of PRRO 10366.
- (f) A total of about 365 tons of food was delivered last week in the context of the PRRO 10158, Assistance to People Displaced by Violence. The food was distributed in 13 provinces reaching 61,855 people. These commodities were distributed in Community kitchens, Food-For-Work/Food-For-Training, Nutritional Recovery, Expectant and Nursing mothers and Pre-School – School Feeding activities.

(3) Cuba

- (a) The average temperatures remain well above normal in Cuba's central and eastern regions and no significant rains were registered or are forecast for the coming days. Drought effects are becoming critical, mainly in the agricultural sector with extremely low production of vegetables, fruits, root vegetables and beans.
- (b) Emergency measures have been taken in the livestock sector by transferring cattle to areas with more access to pasture and water. The situation severely affected food availability and access for vulnerable groups, especially of staple crops and fresh milk, exposing them to severe nutritional risk.
- (c) The level of water in dams continues to decrease and many wells have already dried up completely. People in the affected eastern provinces depend entirely on water tankers and water transported by railroad for their supply. There is a strict control of the situation and ensuring the water supply to the population is a priority for the government.
- (d) The population in the six most affected provinces of Las Tunas, Holguín, Granma, Santiago de Cuba, Guantánamo and Camaguey receive a free monthly ration from the government, consisting of rice and beans, in addition to the one distributed to the general population in the country through the national distribution network. However, this has become a challenge as the government cannot meet the increased needs of the whole population.
- (e) WFP is currently in the process of approval of an emergency operation (EMOP), to provide assistance to drought affected populations in the six eastern provinces planning to assist vulnerable groups, mainly pregnant and nursing women, children under 5 and elderly people, with a complementary food ration of rice, beans and vegetable oil.

(4) Ecuador

- (a) Since last week heavy rains were registered in the provinces of Manabí and Esmeraldas in the north of the country, causing increased river flows – with water level

increases of 80cm in some areas – and the destruction of some households' properties as well as damage to the infrastructure. Authorities requested the Government to declare a state of emergency in those provinces.

- (b) In Esmeraldas province the overflowing of the rivers Cayapas, Onzole, and Santiago affected 250 households; 60 families were evacuated and taken to shelters. The Ministry of Agriculture reported that 50 hectares of cash crops were destroyed.
- (c) In Manabí, 12 cantons are under water. In communities such as Alojuela, Calderón, Manta, Tosagua, Flavio Alfaro, Chone and Junin water raised one meter. The Emergency Operations Committee reported 300 affected families, 33 were taken to improvised shelters of the Civil Defence. The Ministry of Agriculture reported that 5,500 has of cash crops have been destroyed. The Education Department reported that 80 percent of 4,500 schools are under water. The private sector estimates that economic losses reach USD 5 million. Although rain intensity recently decreased, health authorities are concerned by the risk of outbreak of illnesses such as: malaria, dengue, intestinal, respiratory and skin infections, due to stagnant water.
- (d) The government declared a sanitary emergency in both provinces and will give USD 1 million to municipality authorities and the Civil Defence to deal with the emergency.
- (e) Emergency Operations Committees activated contingency plans and -in cooperation with UN agencies (WFP, UNICEF, and PAM)- are coordinating the emergency, with the provision of assistance to affected families and the rehabilitation of dwellings, schools and roads. WFP in cooperation with Civil Defence is distributing 500 food rations to affected families in shelters. The Ministry of Health and WFP are coordinating with medical brigades for the distribution of chlorine and are monitoring the situation for the outbreak of epidemiological illnesses.

(5) El Salvador

- (a) The ED had meetings with the President of the El Salvador, the Foreign Minister and the private sector community. During the meetings Government and private sector support to establish an Emergency Response Hub facility to assist this country and other Central American countries during emergency situations was discussed.

(6) Guatemala

- (a) The Glass of Milk initiative that forms part of the national school feeding programme was launched in Alta Verapaz province by President Berger on 22 April. More than 150,000 schoolchildren at 1,108 schools will be receiving the glass of milk during the remaining 125 school days of 2005. The milk is being procured by the Government through the Association of Milk Producers, at a cost of approximately USD 4.0 million.
- (b) The Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Food also launched two programmes during the week: Under the fertilizers programme, with national coverage, a total of 1.6 million bags of three types of fertilizers will be sold to subsistence farmers at half prices with respect to local market prices. The delivery of fertilizers to all regions of the country is expected to be finished by the first week of June 2005. The cost of the programme is nearly USD 21 million. Under the rural development policy, a trust fund will provide credit to small farmers for crop diversification and income-generating activities, including handicrafts and tourism.
- (c) WFP's Executive Director visited Guatemala to meet government authorities, implementing partners and beneficiaries. During a field trip, he visited project activities and food distribution in San Lucas Toliman, where chronic malnutrition among children under five years of age is critically high compared to the already alarming national average of 49.3 percent.

(7) Haiti

- (a) Human Rights Watch, completing a visit to Haiti, called upon the Transitional Government to focus its efforts on combating lawlessness and observed that illegal armed groups, including former soldiers, are contributing to the growing violence and insecurity, particularly in Port-au-Prince. According to a report published by the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights (IACHR), more than 600 persons have been killed in politically motivated violence since September last year.
- (b) The entire country continues in UN security phase III and the security environment remains tense. Shootings and other incidents continue in many areas of Port-au-Prince. On April 24 and 23, four Haitian National Police-officers were killed in different areas of Port-au-Prince. On April 23, the Administrative Director at the General Direction of Income tax was killed by unknown armed individuals in front of his business on Delmas in central Port-au-Prince. The increase in violence, witnessed since mid-March following the MINUSTAH operations in Petit-Goave and Terre Rouge, has fuelled further security concerns, following incidents targeting both transitional institutions and MINUSTAH. The security situation around the port terminals of Port-au-Prince is deteriorating. Despite the presence of MINUSTAH and Haitian National Police (HNP), several shooting incidents happened during the past week.
- (c) During the past week, a total of 840 tons of food was delivered to health centres and schools (EMOP and CP) 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.

(8) Honduras

- (a) During the visit of WFP's Executive Director to Honduras, he visited the school feeding project in the municipality of Francisco Morazan, and had meetings with the President of Honduras and with the private sector, where he had the opportunity to thank the Government of Honduras for its continuing contribution to the school feeding programme that is benefiting 900,000 children throughout the country, as well as the private sector enterprises for their continued support to WFP.

(9) Nicaragua

- (a) During the past week, student demonstrations against the illegal increase in bus fares continued. The protests led to road blocks and violent clashes between the police, the students and the bus drivers. As a result, three buses were burned on 18 April. Additionally other cases of vandalism were reported, such as the burning of four vehicles. No agreement has been reached to date and protests continue.
- (b) According to press reports, an environmental disaster is taking place in the Northern Atlantic Autonomous Region of Nicaragua, where forest fires have destroyed more than 30,000 ha. of pine trees. Water sources and harvest are reported to be at risk at several locations within the region.
- (c) Press reports also indicate that heavy rains on 23 April, caused flooding in some areas of the capital and nearby cities. A few houses were damaged and one person was reported dead. WFP is monitoring the situation.
- (d) Food distributions to vulnerable groups and school boys and girls under PRRO 10212.0 continue. An estimated 10,365 pregnant and lactating women, 11,160 children under 2 and 53,805 schoolchildren in the Central and Northern Atlantic Regions will benefit. Food-For-Work activities will resume this month.
- (e) PRRO 10212.0 will face shortfalls through September. 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 year 2005.

(10) Peru

- (a) A wave of cold weather conditions is affecting the highlands of Puno and Andahuyala, in southern Peru. According to the National Service of Meteorology, the temperatures have descended below zero in the last weeks. This situation is producing respiratory illnesses among children.
- (b) The cultivation of potatoes in some areas has been badly affected due to the absence of rains. This will cause decreased food availability to beneficiaries of WFP operations.
- (c) Last week, WFP distributed 66 tons of food to health centers, which will be distributed to beneficiaries in the course of next week.
- (d) WFP's EMOP in Peru has only received 15 percent of the commitment, which will cover the needs for 16 days. Shortfalls will be faced in May, when the situation will be worse due to the drought period and the cold in the area of intervention.

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

WFP Weekly Emergency Report

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