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(A) Highlights

(a) As a result of the flooding in Ethiopia, the number of deaths has reached 636; the affected population increased from 226,000 to 357,000 and affected districts from 43 last week to 53 this week.

(b) In Lebanon, WFP delivered 17,900 packs (23.27 tons) of bread between 30 August and 4 September in the southern suburbs of Beirut. In terms of deliveries of other food commodities (canned meat, pulses, oil, etc) WFP has provided 75,000 beneficiaries with a full ration in 2 municipalities, namely Ghobeiry and Haret Hreik.

(c) WFP provided 79,360 beneficiaries with 1,046 tons of food in South Sudan during the reporting period (27 August – 2 September).

(B) Middle East, Central Asia and Eastern Europe: (1) Lebanon (2) occupied Palestinian territories (3) Russian Federation (Caucasus)

(1) Lebanon

(a) The cessation of hostilities continues to hold between Lebanon and Israel. During the reporting period (21 August – 3 September), the blockade by the Government of Israel on Lebanese ports and airports continued to limit the supply of basic essential goods including fuel, and hampering economic recovery in Lebanon. Both the Lebanese Armed Forces (LAF) and UNIFIL continue to deploy troops to the south of the Litani river. On 4 September the UN security phase north of the Litani river and in Tyre town was downgraded to three.

(b) The UN Secretary General Kofi Annan toured the Middle East region, starting his tour in Lebanon on 28 August. On 29 August he held a short meeting with the UN Country Team, including WFP.

(c) The UN Under-Secretary for Humanitarian Affairs Jan Egeland issued strong statements against the use of cluster bombs in the conflict to highlight the issue of unexploded ordinances (UXO) and mines. There are almost 420 identified and marked UXO sites.
(d) Donors pledged more than US$ 940 million for initial reconstruction work during a donor conference held in Stockholm on 31 August.

(e) A three-person WFP team continued the food security assessment in Lebanon, the results of which are expected by 10 September.

(f) WFP delivered 17,900 packs (23.27 tons) of bread between 30 August and 4 September in the southern suburbs of Beirut. In terms of deliveries of other food commodities (canned meat, pulses, oil, etc) WFP has provided 75,000 beneficiaries with a full ration in 2 municipalities, namely Ghobeiry and Haret Hreik. In addition, on 2 September 75,000 people in 2 other municipalities, namely Borj el Brajne and Mraije, received a partial ration. Since the start of the emergency operation, WFP has provided some 4,500 tons of food to beneficiaries affected by the conflict.

(2) occupied Palestinian territories

(a) Palestinian National Authority (PNA) Ministry staff started a strike on 1 September in protest against the non payment of salaries. This is expected to last until PNA employees receive their pay. WFP implementing partners Ministry of Agriculture (MOA) and Ministry of Social Affairs (MSA), are included in the strike as are education and health ministry workers.

(b) As the municipal services are becoming crippled by non payment of staff, the streets in Gaza are becoming full of heaps of pungent garbage. There is rising concern over the spread of disease. Some people are burning their garbage overnight.

(c) The security situation in Gaza remains extremely precarious. While national staff was able to complete field trips without undue security restraints, access for international staff has become increasingly challenging with increased threats against foreigners. Only essential travel is permitted. Incursions continue in the Shajaya area in Gaza.

(d) In the West Bank, WFP field staff has witnessed increased internal movement restrictions and more severe searches/checking procedures on vehicles in the reporting period (16 – 31 August).

(e) In Gaza the MSA distributed 2,500 tons of WFP food to 23,500 Social Hardship Case (SHC) beneficiaries. Under the New Poor programme, Community Housing and Financing (CHF) distributed 916 tons of WFP food to 31,344 beneficiaries.

(f) In the West Bank the MSA distributed 34 tons of WFP food to 4,500 SHC beneficiaries. CHF completed an emergency distribution of 18 tons of WFP food to 1,800 beneficiaries in Nablus. CRS distributed 600 tons of food to 58,200 beneficiaries.

(3) Russian Federation (Caucasus)

(a) The security situation throughout the North Caucasus remained stable with no major security incidents occurring within the reporting period (16-31 August), although there were a number of incidents in Chechnya and in surrounding republics.

(b) The first stage of the vulnerability assessment and mapping (VAM) mission which involved extensive data collection on the food security situation was completed at the end of August in Chechnya and Ingushetia.

(c) During the second fortnight of August, WFP jointly with its cooperating partners Disability Right Commission (DRC), Islamic Relief (IR) and Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (CHA) completed the 5th and the 6th distribution cycles in Chechnya by delivering about 866 tons of food commodities to 42,660 beneficiaries. In Ingushetia WFP’s cooperation partner DRC completed the 4th and 5th distribution cycles by delivering some 20 tons of food to 997 beneficiaries. In August, WFP continued to implement the food for education (FFE) in 11 boarding schools and 23 secondary schools with the leftovers from the implementation of the programme in May.
The food for work (FFW) projects were continued to be implemented in Chechnya in the second fortnight of August. In the second half of August WFP distributed some 64 tons of food commodities for the works implemented within the sugar beet-root growing project.

The Dining Hall project was supported in the second fortnight of August with 13 tons of WFP’s food commodities for most vulnerable people in Grozny.

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

(1) Burundi

(a) The security situation remained tense in the capital Bujumbura due to grenade attacks on a public bar in Nyakabiga commune of the capital, which injured many people. Armed robbery allegedly carried out by the Front for National Liberation (FNL) fighters was also reported in Bubanza province.

(b) Rapid assessments made in Muyinga and Kirundo provinces revealed destitute families faced food shortages following depletion of their recent harvest. WFP reported the presence of food beggars at the provincial office. To lessen any negative impact, WFP is planning to distribute general food assistance through the seeds protection rations in addition to existing programmes. Close monitoring of the most vulnerable zones of these provinces is imperative.

(c) As part of WFP’s ongoing efforts to respond to the cassava mosaic disease, which is reported countrywide (cassava plays a crucial role in protecting household food security), three food-for-work (FFW) projects have been launched in Muramvya and Gitega provinces. The main activities of these projects include the multiplication of cassava mosaic-resistant seeds, road construction and erosion control through landside management.

(d) Between 28 August and 3 September 2006, WFP distributed a total of 264 tons of food to 52,410 beneficiaries through implementing partners. Burundians expelled from Tanzania were included under emergency relief food distribution. WFP is all set to conduct the forthcoming seeds protection rations campaign due to start next week and will end in the second week of October 2006.

(2) Congo, DR

(a) Thousands of internally displaced persons (IDPs) encamped in Aveba, near Bunia, capital city of Ituri district, will most likely need food assistance until June 2007. Estimated at more than 12,800 individuals, the IDPs escaped from various locations where violent clashes occurred between government troops and the Front Patriotique de Résistance pour l’Ituri (FPRI) militia in May 2006. To-date, only 20 percent of the IDPs have access to land and they lack seeds and tools to cultivate food. Meanwhile, the current growing season is expected to end by 31 September. WFP and its cooperating partner German Agro Action have planned a one-month food distribution starting on 04 September.

(b) In South Kivu province, most of the IDPs who had left the mountainous areas for their villages of origin in Kalehe and Nyabibwe at the end of July have now returned due to the security situation after the elections. In April 2006, WFP provided the IDPs totalling 7,000 persons with food rations to cover their food needs for one month.

(c) Congolese refugees in Tanzania are returning to DRC via Lake Tanganyika to Baraka town. Under the protection of the UNHCR, 451 former refugees have headed towards Baraka transit centre where they will be provided with WFP food and other
humanitarian assistance. According to UNHCR a total of 21,787 refugees have returned to DRC in 2006.

(d) WHO reported a measles epidemic in hinterland areas of Maniema province. A total of 429 cases, including 10 deaths, were registered in both Kasongo and Kibombo localities. WFP is concerned about the disease, which is a malnutrition vector. In Kinshasa, the capital of Maniema province, located at 250 km from the epidemic outbreak, WFP supplies food to reinforce the medical treatment of over 690 malnourished persons (mainly children and women) in the therapeutic and supplementary feeding centres supervised by the NGO CONCERN.

(e) In Bukavu, WFP provided 37 tons of food commodities to 4,150 malnourished persons on therapeutic and supplementary feeding in Bunyakiri under the cooperating partner International Medical Corps (IMC).

(f) The number of demobilized child-soldiers assisted by WFP and receiving training in orientation and transit centres in Goma has increased from 100 beneficiaries planned in August 2006 to 151. Most of the ex-child soldiers were demobilized from armed groups in Rutshuru, an area still plagued by high insecurity. WFP has been providing food to maximize the efforts of the NGOs Concert d’action pour les Jeunes et les Enfants Défavorisées (CAJED) and SOS Grands Lacs in peace consolidation. Once trained, the children are reunited with their families.

(g) WFP Bunia, Ituri district supplied a total of 169 tons of various food commodities for malnourished people, HIV/AIDS infected and affected persons and street children.

(h) Food distributions are ongoing in Mutabi/Dubie, Katanga province. A total of 16,500 displaced persons and 15,000 individuals among the host families will benefit from 529 tons of food commodities for a period of two months. An additional 85 tons of various food commodities was delivered to Pweto where WFP plans a food distribution of 250 tons to 30,000 IDPs. The remaining quantity will be delivered shortly. To ease the management of food stocks in Mutabi and Pweto, WFP will install 2 rubhalls, each with 400 tons storage capacity. Presently, the food is being conveyed from Lubumbashi to remote locations mainly by road.

(3) Djibouti

(a) On 4 September 2006, WFP launched an Emergency Food Security Assessment mission (EFSA) with the aim of assessing the food security situation in drought affected areas and to determine the extent WFP food aid contributed in stabilizing and improving the recovery of assisted households. The continued below normal precipitation and increasing rainfall deficits have sustained water shortages in Djibouti livelihood zones. Many traditional water points have dried up and the current pastoralist movements during the dry season (from June to September) would likely increase food needs. Currently, WFP is assisting 47,500 drought-affected pastoralists under the emergency operation (EMOP), ending in December 2006.

(b) Some 58 tons of various food commodities have been allocated to refugees in Ali Addeh camp for the monthly distribution to 3,646 beneficiaries. With the official closure of Holl-Holl camp in June 2006, WFP will be including the transferred refugees to Ali Addeh camp in the beneficiaries list. About 2,500 refugees from former Holl-Holl camp are expected after the transfer operation supervised by UNHCR.

(4) Eritrea

(a) Heavy rains in Tesseney and its environs destroyed homes of about 1,000 people. The flood also damaged electric poles and trees in the town. As reported by the government, displaced people were temporarily sheltered in schools and provided with
food and other relief assistance.

(b) The UN Country Team is preparing for the visit of the Secretary-General’s Special Humanitarian Envoy to the Horn of Africa, Mr. Bondevik, who will visit Eritrea from 9 to 14 September 2006 to review the humanitarian situation and meet with government officials and representatives of the international community.

(c) The Ministry of Health (MoH) plans to conduct another round of National Nutrition Surveillance Surveys (NNSS) in Anseba and Debub regions in early September 2006. The regional MoH offices are the lead agencies in conducting the survey with financial and technical support from UNICEF and WFP under a joint programme. The results will assist in assessing the food security situation in these areas.

(d) According to the Ministry of Agriculture, it was envisaged to cultivate 549,000 hectares (ha) of land during the coming main cropping season. As of June 2006, land preparation of 221,216 ha was completed and on 58 percent of the land staple crops were sown. The same report indicated the government had distributed a total of 983 tons of seeds of different varieties (excluding cotton seeds). In addition, FAO provided farmers with 268 tons of assorted seeds.

(5) Ethiopia

(a) The number of flood-affected districts has increased from 43 last week to 53 this week. Eight are in East Harerge of Oromiya region and the remaining two are respectively in Gode zone of Somali region and Sidama zone of Southern Nations and Nationalities Peoples’ (SNNP) region. Accordingly, the flood-affected population has dramatically increased from 226,000 last week to 357,000 this week. This is due both to the occurrence of fresh flooding in the new districts and to the increase in the number of people affected by floods earlier.

(b) Out of the total affected population, slightly over 136,000 people are reportedly displaced and most of these are receiving both food and non-food assistance. With an additional 12 deaths, the number of persons so far killed by floods and related causes has reached 636 and the number of people missing remains stable at 244.

(c) The increase in the number of flood-affected people is particularly severe in Oromiya followed by Somali and SNNP regions. In Oromiya region, the numbers increased from 16,000 last week to 77,000 this week due to fresh flooding in eight districts in East Harerge. WFP and zonal government officers visited the areas and reported damage on crops, with over 2,000 hectares of land flooded, while the displacement of people is rather small (217 households). In Somali region, the number of affected people has doubled in Mustahil and nearly tripled in Hargele districts according to the recent findings of a joint assessment led by the Disaster Prevention and Preparedness Agency (DPPA). Following increased flooding of Omo River, local officials in South Omo zone of SNNP region have adjusted the figure of people affected upwards, from 8,500 to a new level of 21,500 this week. Meanwhile, Amhara region officials expressed serious concerns with regard to the increasing level of Lake Tana and some of its important tributaries causing floods in new villages in the already affected districts lying in the Fogera-Libo plains in South Gonder zone. Close to 30,000 people are displaced in the region. Nearly all of them are located near Lake Tana and are forced to stay in temporary shelters under very crowded conditions.

(d) Large areas of cropped land are either inundated or washed away by the floods and this could have a considerable impact on harvests and therefore on food security prospects in these districts. Moreover, accessibility to some flood-affected areas is difficult as roads and bridges have been damaged, thus monitoring, assessing and addressing the situation can be challenging. The problem is compounded by lack or shortage of helicopters and motorboats.
(e) As of September 5, DPPA has delivered 1,963 tons of food to 148,625 people in seven regions affected by floods. The government is utilizing its relief transportation fleet which has contributed to fast transportation of relief items to the flood affected areas.

(f) Resource mobilization efforts to respond to the floods are continuing. According to OCHA, as of 01 September more than US$ 10 million have been pledged or contributed by direct grants from embassies, private donations and in-kind contributions. It should be recalled that the total requirements for assisting the flood victims is estimated at US$ 27 million, of which about US$ 5.2 million are food requirements, according to the Flash Appeal issued on 25 August. So far, there are no confirmed contributions to WFP for food requirements.

(g) In addition to resources urgently required to respond to the flood-emergency, severe breaks in the national relief pipeline are foreseen as early as October. The latest pipeline shows a shortfall up to December 2006 of about 140,000 tons, estimated at some US$ 70 million, this includes the flood requirements. Therefore, donor contributions are most urgently sought to cover the relief food needs of about 3 million Ethiopians from September to December 2006.

(h) With regard to the DPPA regular relief food dispatches, these continue in the previously drought affected areas of Somali region, where 56 percent of the sixth round of relief food allocation has been transported. DPPA has also allocated food commodities for one month for the IDP camps of Fafan and Hartisheik located respectively in Gursum and Kebribeyah districts of Jijiga zone in Somali region.

(i) Regarding the status of the Targeting Supplementary Feeding programme as part of the Enhanced Outreach Strategy (TSF/EOS) in pastoral areas, the following activities are taking place: during the last week of August, Somali region completed all TSF/EOS food second round distributions. A total of 1,847 tons of CSB and vegetable oil have been provided to 66,317 beneficiaries in 21 districts. Next screening schedule has been confirmed by Somali Regional Health Bureau and will be initiated as planned by mid-September. Similarly, in Afar region, screening will take place in mid-September as planned. The region is currently finalizing the necessary preparations for implementing the programme in all districts of zone 2.

(j) In Tigray region, the second round of food distribution for the third screening will start by mid-September; and food dispatch will be initiated for 2,674 tons of food commodities targeting a total of 96,029 children under 5 and pregnant and lactating women. Finally this week, Amhara region has distributed 80 percent of the 2,841 tons of supplementary feeding rations for 102,000 beneficiaries as part of the first round of the second screening, while SNNP region has just started to distribute 6,964 tons of food to 249,984 beneficiaries.

(6) Rwanda

(a) Findings from the eastern province market mission conducted in August indicate small traders as mostly affected by the trade flow regulation and price fixing set by provincial authorities. The poorest households with little or no food stocks are most affected by the abnormally high prices especially as there is no need of casual labour in the post-harvest months. While there is less purchasing power for the majority of households who cannot easily sell their produce, there is protection of household food stocks until end of October 2006 and hence stable food security at the household level.

(b) WFP launched four food-for-work projects in the most drought-affected districts of Gisagara, Nyaruguru and Huye in the southern province. A total of 1,580 families or 7,900 beneficiaries will receive food assistance over a period of three to four months.

(c) 50 Burundian refugees were repatriated from Kigeme camp. The general refugee verification exercise continues in collaboration with UNHCR in Kigeme camp
addressing litigation cases. The current number of Congolese and Burundian refugees in Rwanda is 41,448 and 2,146, respectively.

(d) WFP provided a total of 426 tons of food commodities for 23,530 beneficiaries in Gihembe and Nyabiheke camps and Nkamira transit centre.

(e) 161 returnees from DRC arrived at Nkamira and Nyagatare transit camps where a three-month ration consisting of 8 tons was distributed to them before their departure to home communities. (f) 120 Rwandan asylum seekers returned from Burundi, mostly to Kibingo and Mugombwa in the southern province. (g) The number of Rwandans expelled from Tanzania and accommodated in Kiyani transit camp stands at 1,286 people. During the period 28 August to 5 September, 3,274 new arrivals were registered and 2,625 departed to different districts of Rwanda as arranged by local authorities. The Government of Rwanda has so far resettled 3,145 returnees or 71 percent out of the total 4,431. WFP despatched 18 tons of food to Kiyani, which represents a one-month food ration for an estimated 1,000 people in anticipation of new arrivals.

(7) Somalia

(a) The delayed peace talks aimed at reconciling Somalia's Transitional Federal Government (TFG) and the Union of Islamic Courts (UIC) were held in Khartoum, Sudan. Representatives from TFG and UIC agreed on 4 September 2006 during the talks mediated by the League of Arab States to reconstitute the Somali National Army and the National Police Force and work towards reintegration of the forces of the Islamic Courts, the TFG and other armed militias in the country. They agreed to meet again in Khartoum on 30 October for further talks on the political aspects of their differences, including power-sharing arrangements. The UIC has vehemently opposed the deployment of foreign troops, which the TFG has pursued.

(b) For the first time after more than a decade a WFP chartered ship with 3,300 tons of food commodities docked in Mogadishu seaport on 3 September 2006. WFP has been using the beach ports of El-Maan and Merka to deliver food aid to south and central Somalia. The use of Mogadishu port will significantly reduce the cost and duration of delivering food aid to the region. The port was reopened to shipping in August 2006.

(c) Based on the findings of an inter-agency assessment on the flooding of the Shabelle River around the provincial town of Jowhar, WFP will provide a one-month relief food ration totalling 478 tons to 23,000 people. WFP transporters are waiting for the opening of the flooded main road between Mogadishu and Jowhar, while also exploring alternative transportation modes like tractors and small boats. The situation is being closely monitored with UNICEF and NGOs working in the area to decide on future assistance.

(d) WFP has continued to take advantage of the current dry season to pre-position relief food commodities in strategic locations in Somalia. As at 4 September some 27,700 tons of assorted relief commodities have been pre-positioned in strategic locations across Somalia. This strategic pre-positioning will facilitate quick and effective food aid delivery to food distribution points when general food distribution is resumed in October 2006.

(e) WFP is undertaking post distribution monitoring (PDM) in south Somalia from 26 August until 20 September 2006. The PDM is being carried out by WFP Field Monitors in 45 food distribution sites in south Somalia where relief food was distributed in response to the drought emergency. The PDM result will be used to determine the household food security situation and will also assist WFP in the programming of relief food for the current emergency operation.
(8) Sudan

(a) Update on the flood situation: According to the Humanitarian Aid Commission, it is estimated that some 21,000 households have been affected in August by floods in 11 states of Sudan. Impacts of the floods to population have been widespread, with significant loss and damage to houses, property and crops. The Government has been leading much of the flood response, including food assistance from its own strategic reserves and bilateral donations in many of the affected areas across the east and the north. The need for non-food items has been established as priority across the affected regions. WFP has received a request for assistance to respond to the affected populations in Tokar, Red Sea state. Final preparations to deliver 422 tons of food commodities to 32,400 people (6,480 households) will commence in the first week of September. WFP has equally responded and provided 2 tons of food to populations in two affected villages outside Damazine, Blue Nile. Contingency plans have been made for possible assistance to NGO response in Khartoum, Kassala and the Red Sea states within WFP’s current resource and capacity. Additionally, WFP has been proactively involved in preparedness at different levels and offering support to each agency that has comparative advantage in different areas.

(b) During the reporting period (27 August – 2 September), the security situation significantly worsened in the Darfur region with a major Government of Sudan (GoS) offensive against the National Redemption Front (NRF) north of El Fasher. In addition, tension remained high in the three capitals and Khartoum following the passing of the UN Security Resolution in favour of a UN peacekeeping force in Darfur. This might lead to activities against UN staff and property in the region. WFP has put in place precautionary measures such as limiting staff movements in Nyala and El Fasher, daily briefings on security matters. The two drivers who were previously held by the NRF on the road between El Fasher and Kabkabiya (South Darfur) on 24 August are now safe.

(c) The emergency food security and nutrition assessment (EFSNA) exercise commenced on 26 August in Darfur, with field visits starting on 2 September, although the current security situation may limit or delay access in some parts of the region.

(d) Nyala: The security situation throughout South Darfur remained tense with increased incidents of insecurity in the Tulus and Buram locality. On 29 August, several villages (Gueighin, Mabraka, Um Drema, Tabadia and Horetema) in the area of Gueighin and to the south were raided by a group of armed tribesmen, killing and wounding more than 40 people, and looting hundreds of head of cattle, and causing displacement of residents. A joint UN/NGO mission will verify the displacement and assess the humanitarian needs. Meanwhile, two armed men ambushed a convoy of ten WFP trucks travelling in the road between El Fasher and Kabkabiya (South Darfur) on 24 August are now safe.

(e) El Fasher: Fighting between armed factions during the reporting period affected the humanitarian community. GoS re-took the areas between Kul Kul to Um Sidr, which has previously been controlled by the NRF. In addition, Sayeh was bombed, which prevented a WFP mission to discuss the resumption of humanitarian activities in the area. The bombing will also affect resuming of WFP operations in Malha

(f) El Geneina: The security situation in West Darfur remained volatile and unfavorable for humanitarian operations in West Darfur during the reporting period although UN security phase four had been reduced to phase three. Road access to most of the state remained restricted, as security incidents occurred in various locations.

(g) South Sudan: Eastern Equatoria: An unknown group in military uniform looted 13 tons of WFP food in Chukudum, Budi County during the first targeted distribution since last
year as interventions were suspended in this area following increased food looting incidents. Local authorities are investigating the incident. Jonglei: Pockets of insecurity were reported in Kuernyang, New Fangak, Phom Zaref and Atar in Jonglei state due to militia activities. Following improvement in the general security situation, the security phase in Lekongole was reduced from four to two. In June, heavy fighting erupted between militias during a disarmament exercise, causing the level to be revised to Four.

(h) Upper Nile: Malakal town remained at security phase three following recent increased militia activities. However, peace and reconciliation consultations spearheaded by UN mission in Sudan (UNMIS) were held between the warring parties. Initial reports indicate that the parties have agreed to cease hostilities immediately and redeploy their forces back to the barracks. Warrap: Stability was reported in Gogrial East and West counties this week following an inter-clan conflict that left an estimated 45,000 people displaced in the previous week. Those displaced are in Thiek Thou, Majakliet, Mayen Jur, Liethnom and Lunyaker in Warrap State. Lakes: Movement of humanitarian workers was restricted in Yirol and Cueibet counties following two separate security incidents in Yirol and Cueibet. In Yirol, cattle rustlers raided a village. Subsequently, the local police repulsed the raid which left two fatalities and two casualties. In a separate incident, unknown gunmen ambushed an SPLA vehicle on its way to Yirol and left two people dead. In Cueibet, there was tension following increasing insecurity incidents and attacks on civilians and their property. Tension also rose between Dinka Agar from Rumbek Central and Cueibet after the two clans clashed resulting in one fatality.

(i) East: The UN Mine Action Office reported that on 27 August a military vehicle drove on an anti-tank mine in an area located 4 km south of Hamashkorieb town resulting in five casualties and partial damage of the vehicle.

(j) Nyala: A total 1,439 tons of mixed WFP relief commodities was dispatched to various locations in both West and South Darfur during the reporting period. Insecurity continues to hamper deliveries in Khor Abashi, Kurunji and Amar Jadid locations.

(k) El Fasher: Dispatches during the reporting period amounted to 1,299 tons. WFP Kabkabiya Office has still not received its three new rubhalls following the abduction of the transporting truck reported last week. Meanwhile, food distribution was completed in El Fasher, with some distributions continuing in the ACF clusters and in Um Jelbac, near Tawila.

(l) El Geneina: As of 2 September, the cumulative monthly dispatch to various locations in West Darfur was 4,031 tons of assorted food commodities. Of this amount, 1,465 tons was for pre-positioning in Mornie, Habilah and Foro Buranga warehouses for September and October distributions. Meanwhile, the preposition for Foro Buranga warehouse has increased stocks in the fields and assures continuous sufficient food supply in the most difficult parts of the region, especially during the last rainy months of September and October.

(m) Nyala: During the reporting period, an estimated 195 households of Chadian refugees reportedly arrived in Um Dokhon. According to OXFAM, the new refugees fled their villages in eastern Chad, approximately 25 KM from Um Dokhon, after clashes between different militia activities in eastern Chad. WFP Mukjar plans to conduct registration of the new arrivals and distribute food to the refugees in Um Dokhon. Currently, the road between Mukjar and Um Dokhon is flooded due to rains but is expected to clear around second week of September. Meanwhile, in August, WFP fed a caseload of 6,890 persons comprised of refugees and returnees.

(n) For the first time in Garsilla town, an estimated 2,957 people identified to be most vulnerable were verified and registered for food distribution. In addition, 3,626 beneficiaries were provided with 92 tons of mixed food commodities in Yara locality for the first time.
During the reporting period, prices of cereals had increased. The increase in the price of sorghum (local) is due to the preference for the consumers; while the price decrease in the other goods is attributed to food distributions in the camps.

El Fasher: Large-scale movement continued into the IDP Camps close to El Fasher, mainly from West Thabit and Korma as a result of recent insecurity. Further discussions continued with the State Ministry of Education to re-establish school feeding. It was agreed that school feeding would operate in schools where WFP has field offices (El Fasher, Kutum and Kabkabiya) and food will be delivered to local councils. According to ACF, the nutrition survey in Dar Al Salaam area showed that the Global Acute Malnutrition was 27% and the Severe Acute Malnutrition 2.2%. WFP is monitoring the situation. Dar Al Salaam is an area where WFP has been providing seasonal support through the ‘Food-for-Seed’ programme initiated by ACF for the duration of the lean season. During the reporting period, there was a slight reduction in the price of sorghum and groundnuts, while the prices for wheat and goat increased slightly as compared with prices last week. Some 455 individuals were added to Kutum’s caseload from Hamrats and Damrats localities for seasonal support in September/October 2006.

El Geneina: During the period under review, some 571 tons were dispatched from Geneina warehouse to various locations in the state. Some 320 tons of this was for preposition purposes in Foro Burunga, 8 tons for Supplementary Feeding in Krinding and Mornie, and 243 tons for September general food distribution in Masteri. WFP conducted a three-day Post Distribution Monitoring Training for Cooperating Partners Save the Children (SC-US) and Catholic Relief Services, at the SC-US Office. A field-testing exercise was done in El Riad IDP camp and a detailed report will be produced soon.

South Sudan: WFP provided 79,360 beneficiaries with 1,046 tons of food in South Sudan during the reporting period. Distributions were conducted in several locations: 18,280 beneficiaries received 234 tons of food in Unity; 15,690 beneficiaries received 190 tons in Warrap State; 10,242 beneficiaries received 178 tons in Upper Nile; 13,000 beneficiaries received 157 tons of food in Eastern Equatoria; 8,446 beneficiaries received 116 tons in Lakes State; 7,076 beneficiaries received 45 tons in Jonglei; 3,955 beneficiaries in Northern Bahr El Ghazal received 63 tons and; 2,000 beneficiaries in Western Bahr El Ghazal received 27 tons. Of the total food distributed, 175 tons benefited 17,790 returnees in Central Equatoria, Lakes and Unity states, while 17 tons benefited 1,375 pupils under food-for-education in Warrap state. WFP assisted some 17,790 returnees with 257 tons of food in South Sudan; 15,110 received 195 tons of food in Leer, Mayom, Bentiu, Rubkui, Abeirom and Nhialdu locations in Unity State; in Juba, 674 returnees in Ganji and Kulipapa locations were assisted with 35 tons and a total of 27 tons of food was distributed to 2,000 returnees in Mapel in Western Bahr El Ghazal.

An inter-agency assessment mission comprising WFP, International Organization for Migration (IOM) UNMIS, UNHCR, Returns Recovery and Re-integration (RRR) and South Sudan Recovery and Rehabilitation Commission (SRRC) was undertaken in Cueibet during the week. The mission verified the presence of 920 returnees in this area. The mission recommended establishing mechanisms and strengthening tracking as well as enhancing monitoring and registration of returnees to facilitate targeting by agencies. An inter-agency assessment mission is scheduled to visit Sobat corridor in the coming week to assess the damage caused by floods in Doma, Ulang Yomding and Nasir locations in Upper Nile. According to local authorities, crops in vast low-lying areas are feared destroyed, but no human or animal casualties have been reported.

Some 450 returnees arrived in Ganyiel, Unity from Kosti, White Nile. According to the SSRRC, they are part of the 700 returnees expected to arrive from Kosti. Local authorities plan for their re-settlement in Ganyiel. Another 280 returnees are reported to
have arrived in Panyijar County. WFP will participate in an inter-agency mission to the county in the coming weeks to verify the needs of these returnees. In Eastern Equatoria, 110 returnees arrived during the reporting week. Of the total, 80 returnees are in Kapoeta East County while another 30 arrived in Lafon, Torit and Budi counties from Kakuma area in Kenya. In Upper Nile, local authorities in Tonga reported the arrival of 500 households of returnees from Fangak and Zeraf to Tonga area. In Jonglei, WFP plans to verify and register some 550 returnees and 3,000 IDPs reported in Pakok.

(u) East Sudan: WFP’s Cooperating Partner in Kassala, the Sudanese Red Crescent, distributed 140 tons of food commodities to 34,399 IDPs in five camps of Fedayieb, Ad Imer, Odi, Fatu and Adarman. This distribution comes as a supplement to the food quantities distributed last July with ration cuts to complement August food rations, initially distributed with ration cuts due to pipeline constraints. General food distributions also continued in refugee camps and August distributions were completed in all 12 refugee camps during the week. Another 85 tons of food were dispatched to Shagarab camps to cover September food requirements. • UNHCR and the Commission of Refugees screened and granted refugee status to 181 Eritrean asylum seekers in Kassala state. Another group of 45 Somali asylum seekers who arrived in Sudan from Ethiopia and one individual from the Democratic Republic of Congo were also screened and granted refugees status. The new arrivals were transferred to Kilo 26 camps for resettlement and will be provided with assistance by WFP and UNHCR.

(v) Three Areas: During the reporting period, Save the Children-US distributed 123 tons of WFP food commodities to 14,133 returnees in Tagadom West, Tagadom South, Tagadom East, Alnazer, Asafa, Asalam, Awanchan and Elwhahieda in Abyei. In South Kordofan, under general food distribution CARE International distributed 43 tons of WFP food to 1,208 returnees and 38 tons to 1,094 vulnerable local residents in Shaieir, Lojouk and Toksowana villages in Kadugli locality. The WFP office in Kadugli, South Kordofan received 20 new project proposals during the reporting period requesting for about 200 tons of assorted food items to be distributed through various food-for-work, food-for-training and institutional feeding projects. In partnership with CEAS (Church Ecumenical Action in Sudan), WFP commenced to support 3,200 pupils in 9 primary schools in Kurmuk locality, Southern Blue Nile with 46 tons of assorted food commodities.

(w) During the week two assessment missions comprising of WFP, UNICEF, REO and NCA were held in Ferish and Badura areas in Kauda, South Kordofan. The objectives of the mission are to assess the proposed school construction sites by cooperating partners; to determine community capacity; identify the number of villages that will benefit from the project; availability of Parent Teacher Associations; community mobilization prior to the implementation of the project; to assess roads for transportation of construction materials; update current statistical information on pupils and teachers and; gather relevant information which can help in the implementation of the project. The mission approved school construction locations and requested UNICEF and authorities in Kauda to include the school site in the 2007 plan for water points expansion.

(x) The WFP office in El Obeid, North Kordofan hosted a one-day workshop, facilitated by WFP and FAO, to discuss the commencement of the 2007 UN Work Plan for the food security and livelihood sector. Participants included the State Ministry of Agriculture, Ministry of Irrigation and Animal Resources, Humanitarian Aid Commission, UNICEF, IFAD, CARE International and the Drought Recovery and Food Security Project for North Kordofan state. The Ministry of Education organized another meeting during the week to discuss the education sector in the 2007 UN work plan. WFP, UNICEF, the Humanitarian Aid Commission, Plan Sudan and CARE International undertook situation
analysis in the meeting.

(y) WFP commenced delivery of food commodities allocated to school feeding activities in North Kordofan state. A total of about 350 tons of food commodities will be delivered to 14 administrative units during the first week of September for distribution in schools. The food will cover September and October requirements of 33,116 basic school pupils, 595 secondary girls in boarding schools and 5,760 preschool children in the state. Heavy rains continued in El Obied, North Kordofan during the week, hindering WFP's food-for-work activities as two hafir sites in Mezroub area were reportedly full of rain water. According to the Humanitarian Aid Commission, the number of households affected by floods as of June totalled 1,741 of which 1,041 are in El Obeid, 400 in El Nuhud and 300 in Um Rowaba.

(z) A demonstration, organized by the state government, took place in Rabak, White Nile to protest against deployment of UN troops to Sudan. The gathering was addressed by the Wali and some political representatives and was peacefully concluded. WFP minimized movement and activities during that day as a security precautionary measure.

(aa) According to the findings of the inter-agency assessment undertaken end of August in flood-affected locations in White Nile state, the affected populations are estimated at 2,195 individuals (365 households) in nine villages in Kosti locality. Immediate needs include shelter, mosquito nets and medicines. Food assistance will become a priority in case of crop failure in the affected areas.

(ab) Emergency Operation 10503.0: In 2006, WFP aimed to feed more than 6 million people in Sudan. Due to a lack of timely contributions earlier this year, WFP was forced to cut food rations by half in May in order to ensure that food stocks would not run out during the hunger season. Because of the six-month time frame to reach hungry people in remote and insecure areas in Sudan, current food supplies are now running short; WFP estimates that food stocks will completely run out in January.

(ac) Contributions are required immediately to ensure that WFP will be able to deliver full rations in the first months of 2007 and preposition food in anticipation of the 2007 hunger and rainy season. With confirmed contributions of US$ 583.6 million - or 78 percent of the required US$ 746 million - WFP is facing an immediate shortfall of US$ 162 million. Unless contributions are secured soon, WFP will be forced to reduce rations as early as October in order to stretch current stocks from January to March 2007. The situation is further complicated by the need to immediately begin the process of prepositioning more food before the next hungry season begins in May 2007. By prepositioning food in 2006, WFP was less reliant on expensive air drops, delivering food more efficiently and more expeditiously to needy people who would have normally been cut off. WFP requires donors to make additional commitments of US$ 200 million by the end of 2006 in order to get food in the pipeline well ahead of the coming rainy season, when logistics networks get cut off.

(ad) Humanitarian Air Service (WFP-HAS) Special Operation 10181.3: The Special Operation requirements for 2006 are US$27 million of which 80 percent has so far been resourced by the EC, CHF and USAID. Additional donor support to meet the 20 percent shortfall is vital, particularly for air operations in Darfur where air transport is often the only safe and possible means of accessing locations.

(ae) Emergency Road Repair and Mine Clearance Special Operation 10368.0: The requirements for 2006 are almost fully funded with only a three percent shortfall following recent contributions from the Government of Sudan and the Multi Donor Trust Fund (MTDF). This is providing WFP a major opportunity to commence planned road works under Phase III.
(9) Tanzania

(a) During the month of August, a total of 9,282 Burundian refugees repatriated voluntarily to Burundi. This is by far the highest number of returnees since October 2005. The promotion of voluntary repatriation to Burundi as well as seasonal factors and the end of the school year are the reasons given by UNHCR for the increase.

(b) Two return movements to DRC were facilitated by UNHCR during the last week of August. A total of 940 Congolese refugees returned home. The repatriation on 29 August was the first after one month’s pause in the operation due to the presidential elections in DRC.

(c) WFP continues to provide refugees with 1,500 Kcal, which is 71 percent Kcal of the approved ration level. It is expected that WFP will continue distributing reduced rations until additional resource are contributed to WFP.

(d) General food distribution covers 331,907 registered refugees. During the past week, WFP distributed 1,034 tons of food through general distribution, supplementary and therapeutic feeding in refugee camps in western Tanzania. Around 5,700 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-training and vulnerable feeding.

(e) An estimated shortfall of 24,639 tons (US$ 13.4 million) exists up to the end of June 2007.

(10) Uganda

(a) Following the signing of an agreement for the cessation of hostilities between the Government of Uganda (GOU) and the Lord’s Resistance Army (LRA) on 26 August in Juba, Southern Sudan, and the halting of military operations against the LRA by the Uganda People’s Defence Forces, LRA forces have begun moving to designated assembly points in Southern Sudan. The peace negotiations are yet to resume.

(b) WFP, together with the respective district authorities and the Office of the Prime Minister, is currently conducting a revalidation exercise of internally displaced persons (IDPs) in Gulu, Kitgum and Pader to update beneficiary statistics for planning purposes.

(c) As part of its support to the IDP resettlement in Lira district, WFP distributed a three-month ration of 782 tons of food commodities to 28,455 IDPs in Barr IDP camp between 27-30 August 2006.

(d) WFP food distribution continues to reach 1.45 million displaced persons, 165,000 refugees and other vulnerable persons. During the past week, WFP distributed 2,201 tons of food assistance to 309,697 persons including IDPs sheltering in camps in Gulu, Pader, Kitgum and Lira districts, refugees, children in nutrition centres and other vulnerable persons.

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

(1) Chad

(a) The overall situation is calm in N’Djamena but remains unpredictable and tense throughout the country. No major incidents have been reported. However, the situation in eastern Chad continues to be volatile due to repeated thefts over the past weeks and attacks on villages in the border area between Chad and Sudan. On 25 August Chad handed over to the African Union mediators five Sudanese rebels arrested on Chadian territory as part of a new diplomatic agreement to improve relations with Sudan. # The
UN Area Security Management Team (ASMT) in Abéché continues to apply additional security measures for humanitarian aid workers in eastern Chad restricting movement at night.

(b) Over the last two weeks, heavy rainfalls temporarily disrupted access both by car and by plane to several of the refugee camps in the eastern areas.

(c) General food distributions for September have started in eastern Chad. WFP has planned to provide 212,205 beneficiaries with 3,461 tons of food between 4 - 17 September.

(d) WFP is planning to support 51,834 children through its 2006/2007 school feeding program. Over 653 tons of food is required for the first 70 days distributions of hot food rations in schools in eastern Chad.

(e) To date, WFP is supporting some 8,000 beneficiaries through supplementary feeding, therapeutic feeding and mother & child healthcare programmes.

(f) In preparation for the WFP/UNHCR Joint Assessment Mission (JAM), nutritional surveys in Oure Cassoni, Iridimi, and Touloum refugee camps have been carried out. The results are yet to be presented. According to the nutritional screening conducted in Amnabak in July by WFP partner IMC, Global Malnutrition Rates (GAM) are at 5.67% and Severe Malnutrition (SAM) rates are at 0.38%.

(g) During the month of August, WFP Humanitarian Air Service (UN-HAS) transported 1,515 passengers. A total of some 6.8 tons kg of light cargo and relief supplies were also transported during the period.

(h) To date, the emergency operation (EMOP) has received US$ 69.5 million, representing 77% of the total requirement. The operation in support of the Sudanese refugees is planned to continue next year. Confirmation of contributions for 2007 are required by December 2006 at the latest in order for WFP to be able to purchase and start pre-positioning food stocks by May 2007 before the rainy season when most camps are inaccessible.

(2) Côte d’Ivoire

(a) The Prime Minister offered the resignation of his cabinet on 6 September in response to the scandal caused by the dumping of toxic waste in Abidjan. On 5 September, a six-hour mini-summit took place in Yamoussoukro for the main political leaders, mediated by Prime Minister Charles Konan Banny, to discuss a national identity scheme which has delayed elections scheduled to be held before the end of October 2006. However, talks failed and no concrete measures have been reached towards a consensus.

(b) The security situation remained fairly calm throughout the country except in Abidjan and the western zone of confidence. In Abidjan protests against toxic waste began on 4 September by blocking roads and brandishing placards accusing the Government of negligence. Information notes on toxic waste effects and protection measures are being widely distributed among UN staff, while waiting for the results of French experts’ investigations, who were expected in Abidjan on Thursday 7 September. Criminality decreased slightly, although the situation is worrying in the zone of confidence along the road Bangolo-Duekoue where unofficial road blocks are repeatedly set up leading often to loss of life (seven persons have been killed during the last ten days).

(c) The dumping of toxic waste throughout Abidjan is of great concern. Seven sites have been identified to date, where immediate consequences registered are: polluted air, large numbers of people moving towards districts thought to be safer, psychosis amongst the population. Humanitarian and UN agencies are closely monitoring the situation in order to support Government efforts.
(d) In Tabou, 134 vulnerable refugees relocated in the ENA center have been delivered by UNHCR/Caritas with WFP one-month food ration.

(e) Several monitoring missions were conducted by the WFP sub-offices during the reporting period (30 August–6 September). On 4 September, IOM and WFP launched a census of displaced Burkinabe farmers hosted at CATD 1 and 2 in Guiglo. The food sectorial group identified that rice and maize production has decreased in Odienne as a consequence of a lack of fertilizers and heavy rains. Preparation of the in-depth assessment to prepare the 2007 protracted relief and recovery operation (PRRO) in Côte d’Ivoire is underway.

(f) As of 06 September 2006, the regional PRRO (Côte d’Ivoire, Burkina, Ghana, and Mali) has received a total of US$ 42.5 million against the operational needs of US$ 50.1 million (14.9% shortfall). Additional funding is urgently needed to avoid serious pipeline breaks. An estimated 5,200 tons of assorted food commodities are urgently needed to fill in the gap.

(3) Guinea

(a) Beyla prefecture was upgraded to security phase 3. Therefore, the entire Forest region is now in phase 3. Conakry, Kankan and Labé towns are in phase 2 and the rest of the country is in security phase 1. Macenta and N’Zerekore regions are isolated to road traffic after bridges collapsed due to heavy rainfall. This problem is causing serious problems in the supply of basic products to that region.

(b) In the protracted relief and recovery operation (PRRO), WFP distributed a total of some 220 tons of food to 19,959 beneficiaries in Kissidougou and N’zérékoré regions during the reporting period (21 August – 3 September). 210 tons of this food was distributed to 17,138 beneficiaries as a part of the August general food distribution in Laine refugee camp.

(c) A total of 1,186 Liberian refugees were voluntarily repatriated during the reporting period. As usual, WFP provided food for the preparation of hot meals for refugees participating in the convoys.

(d) 50 primary schools were visited for the identification of new beneficiary schools for the emergency school feeding activity in Macenta.

(4) Guinea Bissau

(a) The security situation in the border area of Senegal’s Casamance province has remained calm. De-mining operations are under way in the area. Security Phase II Fremains countrywide.

(b) The 2006 growing season is under way. There is some concern about the scarce amount of rainfall registered so far in some areas. A rainfall shortage could hamper the development of lowland and mangrove rice crops that require large amounts of water. Farmers in eastern and northern regions of the country started harvesting short-cycle varieties of maize, which has mitigated the impact of food insecurity in those areas.

(c) During the reporting period (1-31 August), WFP planned to assist a total number of 70,000 beneficiaries including 47,600 women. This includes around 10,000 food insecure households involved in food-for-assets activities in the southern part of the country (Tombali and Quinara) facing food insecurity as per the July emergency food security assessment (EFSA) mission findings and recommendations.

(d) WFP dispatched a total of 518 tons of food to cooperating partners in the reporting period. It is anticipated that the protracted relief and recovery operation (PRRO) 10148.2 will face a shortfall of 1,577 tons of rice and 32 tons of vegetable oil in September 2006.
(e) The last food distribution under the immediate response emergency operation (IRA-EMOP) 10525.0 in Bula centre took place on 9 August. In total, 42 IDP families were provided with food at that centre. WFP also provided food to 232 IDP families in other northern areas of the country.

(f) The PRRO 10148.2 faces an immediate shortfall amounting to 3,425 tons of a value of US$ 2.5 million to cover the needs until the end of 2006. Shortages will begin affecting distributions in September and October. Food-for-work activities in food-shortage affected areas of Quinara and Tombali that benefit 66,000 beneficiaries will be disrupted. Should no new donations be confirmed, these shortages are also expected to affect some 80,000 school children who would not receive school meals when classes resume in October.

(5) Liberia

(a) The general security situation over the reporting period (28 August – 3 September) remained calm but volatile as activities of criminals continued to be the main threat to staff safety and security. Demonstrations continue to create security concerns in the country. Also, the Government’s efforts to repossess rubber plantations from illegal occupants continue to raise security concerns in areas around the plantations.

(b) WFP continues to support the voluntary repatriation of Liberian refugees returning home through provision of resettlement food packages. During the reporting period, a total of 72 tons of assorted food commodities was distributed to some 2,134 returnees as first and second tranche resettlement packages in different counties.

(c) A total of 79,000 Liberian refugees have been repatriated by UNHCR since the commencement of the exercise in October 2004. Currently, UNCHR estimates that a residual number of 141,600 Liberian refugees remain to be assisted through the Voluntary Repatriation exercise, mainly living in Cote d’Ivoire, Ghana, Guinea, Nigeria and Sierra Leone. The facilitated repatriation exercise is expected to be completed by June 2007. Meanwhile, over 90% of the returnees (79,000 people) have completed receiving their full resettlement package of four- months food ration from WFP.

(d) During the reporting period, WFP and partners distributed a total of 64 tons of food to 2,608 beneficiaries in support of food for work (FFW) and food for training (FFT) activities in the various Counties. The beneficiaries included some 334 workers involved in the road rehabilitation project in Robertsport, Cape Mount County supported by UNMIL.

(e) During the reporting period, FAO and WFP carried out a joint verification exercise of projects benefiting from food for work – Seed Protection programmes in Montserrado and Margibi Counties. WFP currently provides food through a FSLI programme to various seed protection projects supported by FAO to boost the crop production in the Country.

(f) During this reporting period, WFP distributed a total of 16 tons of food to 1,368 beneficiaries in various institutions under the nutrition programme including beneficiaries in institutional and supplementary feeding, mother and child health (MCH) as well as people living with HIV/AIDS.

(g) A total of 338 tons of food was dispatched during the week under review to various WFP sub-offices and partners warehouses for commencement of the September distribution circle.

(h) WFP Liberia currently needs contributions of up to US$ 10 Million to meet food requirements for the first quarter of 2007 (January – March). Since it takes an average of 4-5 months from the time donor contributions are confirmed up to when the food arrives in-country (Monrovia), immediate food purchases are needed in order to enable
food to be in-country by December for January 2007 distributions.

(6) Niger

(a) Niger is under security phase 0, with the exception of Agadez region which is under phase 1. A WFP vehicle was caught in the crossfire when its Nigerien army escort attempted to stop a vehicle with armed bandits on the road between Bilma and Agadez on 4 September. No WFP staff members were harmed.

(b) The 2005 food crisis severely eroded the capacity of households to survive further shocks. A high percentage of families (62%) fell into debt during the crisis and continue to pay the cost of this indebtedness. The pastoral populations were also strongly affected as the majority of them lost almost all their herds. Results of a WFP/Government/FEWS-Net survey of 10,564 rural and urban households conducted in May 2006, indicate that 1.8 million persons are in severe food insecurity and 2.1 million are in moderate food insecurity.

(c) Heavy rains over the past few weeks have resulted in floods in some areas of the country. The rains have resulted in destruction of houses and wells and loss of food stocks and animals. WFP has dispatched a total of 406 tons of cereals to 18,542 beneficiaries affected by floods.

(d) As outlined in the National Food Security Mechanism’s (DNGPCA) plan of action to address the situation of the 1.8 million severely food insecure people in Niger, targeted free food distributions began on 25 August 2006. WFP and the DNGPCA are both supplying 8,000 tons to reach 650,000 people with two rounds of distributions.

(e) WFP, UNICEF and NGO partners are collaborating on a blanket supplementary feeding operation in Maradi, Zinder and Tahoua- the three regions found to have the highest malnutrition rates by the UNICEF/CDC survey in September 2005. It was originally planned to reach 234,000 children under three years of age with three rounds of a supplementary feeding ration as a prevention activity during the lean season. However, beneficiary numbers are now estimated to be around 40% higher than planned. 92% of the original quantities of food planned have been dispatched to partners - however with the increase in beneficiary numbers, additional dispatches will be necessary.

(f) In addition to the blanket supplementary feeding programme, support to supplementary feeding activities continues. So far since the beginning of the year 249,086 severely and moderately malnourished children have been admitted to therapeutic and supplementary feeding centres in Niger.

(g) 200,000 people not covered by targeted distributions but who live in areas poorly served by rural markets are benefiting from the restocking or creation of village cereal banks. WFP is currently supplying 2,000 tons for cereal banks across the country:

(h) The Government of Niger is currently preparing a contingency plan and as WFP is also updating its contingency plan this month, the two plans will be well integrated.

(i) WFP, together with the Government of Niger and FEWS-Net is planning a further food security assessment in October.

(j) The protracted relief and recovery operation (PRRO) has received US$ 31.9 million, representing 85% of the original project budget. However, a budget revision of the PRRO is currently ongoing to reflect the increased needs under the DNGPCA’s plan of action and the blanket supplementary feeding activity. With the increased needs for the blanket supplementary feeding programme, the pipeline for corn-soya blend (CSB) will now break in early 2007. Contributions are urgently needed to avoid a disruption of nutrition activities for malnourished children.

(E) Asia: (1) Afghanistan (2) Philippines (3) Sri Lanka
(1) Afghanistan

(a) The general security situation continues to be volatile, particularly in the southern and south-eastern regions. NATO-led military operations against the insurgents continued in the south, with operations in Panjwai and Zhari districts of Kandahar province resulting in the displacement of civilians. The situation in Kabul was also volatile after a suicide attack targeting the International Security Assistance Force (ISAF) on 4 September, which resulted in the death of one peacekeeper and three civilians. Also during the reporting period (31 August – 6 September) two rockets were fired into Kabul city and three rockets were fired at the international airport.

(b) A WFP-supported school was set on fire by unidentified people in the south-eastern province of Paktika. The school was completely destroyed, including some WFP food which was intended for distribution to the children.

(c) During the reporting period, WFP assisted 147,000 people with 1,960 tons of food across the country, including those suffering from country-wide drought. WFP also distributed 385 tons of mixed commodities to 14,400 drought-affected individuals in northern Faryab and eastern Nuristan provinces.

(2) Philippines

(a) Some of the 45,000 people evacuated due to fears of an eruption of Mt. Mayon in Albay Province have begun to return to their homes. At present, there are 6,438 families (30,175 persons) remaining in the twenty three evacuation camps. According to the Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD), relief commodities valued at PHP 16.5 million have been provided to the family-evacuees through the combined resources of the local and national Government, non-government organizations and international organizations.

(b) A total of 6,166 families (30,581 people) were adversely affected by the oil spill in 53 villages in the provinces of Guimaras and Iloilo. Food and other basic needs of families affected by the oil spill are being met by national and local Government and the gas company which owned the oil that spilled.

(c) As of end of August, all five provinces targeted by the emergency operation (EMOP) had undertaken food aid distribution for the food for education (FFE) take home ration. Except for Cotabato province, the four other provinces had ongoing distribution to complete the rice allocation for the two month period covering from 15 June to 15 August 2006. As of end of August, a total of 16,822 school children received 390 tons rice.

(3) Sri Lanka

(a) The total number of people newly displaced by the recent fighting between the Sri Lankan Government armed forces and the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Ealam (LTTE) is estimated at 240,000 as of 4 September. Due to recent rains, approximately 10,000 IDPs residing in the Kantalai Division of Trincomalee over the last month have returned to Muttur.

(b) Security remains tense in Jaffna, Kilinochchi, Mullaitivu, Batticaloa and Ampara districts due to shelling, mortar attacks, claymore mines and random killings. As a result of the fighting, significant numbers of IDPs have moved southwards towards Batticaloa district.

(c) For the first time since early August, a UN-chartered flight carrying staff and supplies landed in Jaffna on 4 September. Serious concerns over shortages of food and other basic supplies persist, especially in the outlying areas of the district. WFP local food
stocks are running significantly low and re-supply is difficult under current circumstances.

(d) The UN has had controlled access to some LTTE-controlled areas in Batticaloa, Trincomalee and Ampara districts over the past week and food and non-food convoys have been able to pass. Since the resumption of hostilities in May, WFP has delivered 2,583 tons of mixed food commodities to the newly displaced people. WFP plans to provide basic food rations to all 240,000 IDPs but their high degree of mobility as well as limited humanitarian access presents significant challenges in programming and pre-positioning of food. WFP operations have been severely hampered by the very restricted opening of the Omanthai crossing into the Vanni (LTTE-controlled North).

(e) Four Government agent-led convoys carrying one week’s worth of food supplies were organized into Vaharai area of Batticaloa in August. Food convoys of 21 lorries also entered the Vanni on 1-2 September and one convoy has entered the LTTE-controlled areas in Mannar.

(f) WFP regular activities under the protracted relief and recovery operation (PRRO) (food for work, food for education, mother and child health) are ongoing in 15 districts but are severely hampered in the eight districts directly affected by the fighting. Food for education/School Feeding was suspended in few schools in Ampara, Batticaloa and Jaffna due to IDP occupation, access restrictions for teaching staff and curfews.

(g) The recently launched Consolidated Humanitarian Action Plan (CHAP) includes US$ 11 million of WFP food assistance for newly displaced IDPs as well as US$ 2.6 million for a WFP Special Operation (SO 10539) for augmenting logistic preparedness capacity. The SO will benefit all humanitarian agencies by providing transport facilities and logistical bases to support distributions of food and non-food items. The CHAP was presented to local donor representatives on 6 September.

(h) Out of the planned 103,025 tons of required food for the PRRO (including 7,000 tons of contingency stocks used in the emergency response), WFP has resourced 70,636 tons of food commodities to date.

(F) Latin America and Caribbean: (1) Colombia (2) Ecuador (3) Guatemala (4) Haiti (5) Honduras

(1) Colombia

(a) Displacements have taken place in various municipalities of the south-western province of Nariño. Local authorities reported that 84 families (some 400 people) from rural and urban areas of the coastal municipality of La Tola were forced to flee due to clashes between the Army and illegal armed groups. Information issued locally also indicates that some 380 displaced people are still temporarily settled in the municipality of Olaya Herrera since March. WFP is preparing a special food distribution in the municipalities of Barbacoas and Magui. This delivery will provide food to nutritional recovery, nursing and expectant mothers and emergency food aid activities as part of protracted relief and recovery operation (PRRO) 10366.

(b) Displacements of at least 700 people have also been reported in the north-eastern province of Arauca, where they are receiving emergency aid provided by ICRC.

(c) The WFP Executive Director, Mr. James Morris, visited Colombia from 21-25 August. During his trip Mr. Morris met with senior government officials led by President Álvaro Uribe, who agreed to match any increase in humanitarian assistance WFP gives to Colombia - with the purpose of raising the total number of beneficiaries - and to make contributions to the organization in the form of technical expertise, food for emergency response in the region and general support for the End Child Hunger initiative WFP
launched in Latin America.

(d) In the context of the PRRO 10366, assistance to people displaced by violence, WFP distributed 1,640 metric tons of food in 21 provinces during the reporting period (23 August – 5 September) to 178,386 beneficiaries, especially in, food for work, food for training, School and Preschool Ffeding, nursing and expectant mothers and emergency food aid.

(2) Ecuador

(a) According to the National Geophysical Institute of Ecuador the seismic activity of the Tungurahua during the past days has slightly decreased. However, the threat of a new eruption remains high. The provinces of Tungurahua, Chimborazo, and Bolívar remain under UN security phase 1. Some 1,800 people are still living in shelters due to Tungurahua’s volcanic eruption.

(b) According to the CLIRSEN (Centro de Levantamientos Integrados de Recursos Naturales por Sensores Remotos) as a result of the volcano eruption the communities of Chontapamba and an area of El Mazano in the county of Penipe will not be productive for approximately 50 years as a consequence of the environmental impact. Incandescent material and ash have altered the habitat and contaminated the air. Crops such as maize, tomato, onion and other products were devastated. Other affected communities will be productive in approximately 10 years.

(c) WFP continues to lead and coordinate with local authorities regarding food security and food assistance.

(3) Guatemala

(a) Ten months have passed since hurricane Stan hit Guatemala and many families currently living in shelters continue to struggle as land availability is limited and in some communities inexistent. The Guatemalan Government has requested the UN System to participate in the project “Community Productive Habitat” to assist a total of 4,000 families still living in shelters. WFP will participate in the risk management actions and will provide food assistance until December.

(b) A total of 414 tons have been distributed in the Departments of Chimaltenango and San Marcos to 6,115 families involved in food for work (FFW) activities.

(c) The emergency operation (EMOP) 10497 continues with a 31.8% shortfall with US$ 9,610,428 received in contributions from the US$ 14,095,271 requested in October 2005.

(4) Haiti

(a) During the reporting period (22 August -4 September), the security situation in Haiti is still precarious and the level of kidnappings in the capital remains high. The entire country remains in UN security phase III. However, a slight improvement was noted during the last week of August and first week of September, following the Government’s warning on 9 August for directed at gang members and the beginning of better coordinated and more visible operations against criminal activity by MINUSTAH-HNP (Haitian National Police).

(b) Travel restriction measures & escorts still continue to be mandatory in various areas of Port-au-Prince, and road travel to the Malpasse boarder with the Dominican Republic is still prohibited and armed escorts are necessary for UN trucks with supplies coming from the neighbor country.

(c) Tropical Storm Ernesto passed south of the island during the weekend of 26 August. WFP Haiti assured coordination with other agencies of the UN system and monitored
developments. Medium/local damages were registered; however national authorities have not made an appeal for international assistance and are dealing with needs at a regional level.

(d) During the reporting period (22 August - 4 September), a total of 711 tons of food were delivered to health centres and schools under the protracted relief and recovery operation (PRRO) and Country Programme (CP) in the West, North and North-East departments and in Port-au-Prince. Lack of available stocks in cereals as well as the security situation is slowing deliveries to partners.

(e) The UN procedures governing a Phase III environment, and the labelling of additional areas as “Red”, imply that logistics operations in PAP find themselves stifled and more expensive as WFP is forced to call upon subcontractors that are not subject to same security regulations in order to guarantee continuity in the deliveries and distributions.

(f) By the end of August 2006, the PRRO 10382.0 received US$ 28, 9 million from direct multilateral and multilateral contributions. However, it is facing a pipeline break of CSB and further contributions are critically needed to overcome these shortages.

(5) Honduras

(a) This year's new rat infestation has caused crop losses and food insecurity for highly vulnerable population (some 500 farmers of 20 communities) living alongside the Patuca and Coco Rivers -Departments of Olancho and El Paraiso/Nicaragua border. 1000 hectares had been affected, and the crop losses (maize, beans and cassava) reach 79% of the total food production of the area. General food insecurity in the region is not expected, but the situation is likely to deteriorate in a couple of months, when the first agricultural cycle yields are usually consumed by the families.

(b) The municipality of Palestina has been the only one to declare a state of emergency. The assistance in the area is complex because of the remoteness of the region (communication only by water) and a very low institutional presence. Therefore, WFP is looking for partner counterparts to assist the affected population and so far has identified two NGOs.

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

**WFP Weekly Emergency Report**

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