
World Food Programme Emergency Report 2005
Issued Weekly by the United Nations World Food Programme
Report No. 14 / 2005 - Date 01 April 2005

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(A) Highlights

- (a) WFP staff flew into Nias less than 10 hours after the undersea earthquake struck the Indonesian islands of Nias and Simuelue. Their first action was to arrange and supervise an airlift of severely wounded islanders to hospitals in Sumatra.
- (b) In Afghanistan's Ghazni province, WFP is providing food assistance to 2,700 people affected by floods that were unleashed when a dam burst last Tuesday.
- (c) WFP is making its final food donation to China after more than 25 years of providing aid.
- (d) Due to the continued increase in the number of refugees arriving from DRC and Burundi to Rwanda, WFP is compelled to cut the ration of cereals and pulses by 30 percent from April.
- (e) WFP is assisting the efforts of the Angolan authorities and WHO to control the outbreak of Marburg virus, by providing logistical support.

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

(1) Afghanistan

- (a) The security situation in Afghanistan is still volatile, with bomb explosions in Jalal Abad, Kabul, killing and injuring several people. One WFP vehicle was damaged as a consequence of one of the bomb explosions.
- (b) A dam broke in Ghazni province, unleashing floods that killed several people, washed away hundreds of houses and shops and damaged nearly 500 hectares of agricultural land, affecting over 1,000 families. Within hours, WFP and other aid agencies were on the spot to assess and respond. WFP's food assistance of 50 tons, to cover 2,700 beneficiaries, arrived at Ghazni on 30 March. The distribution of food to meet the immediate needs of the affected population started a day after. A disaster management team (DMT), composed of the Government, United Nations agencies, provincial reconstruction team (PRT), cooperating partners and local community has launched a relief operation.

- (c) During the past week, WFP in Afghanistan assisted a total of 590,900 beneficiaries.
- (d) WFP is coordinating the broader UN and partners' efforts to respond to the consequences of the floods and snow. On 30 March, PRT and Government military helicopters airlifted 400 bags of wheat and non-food items to inaccessible areas in Khawaja Omari district. Furthermore, WFP continued its relief assistance in the winter and flood affected districts of Logar, Paktya, Ghazni, Wardak, Bamyán, Nangarhar and Kunar provinces. In addition, some 22,500 affected households in Hilmand, Kandahar, Nimroz, Uruzgan and Zabul provinces received 1,330 tons of food during the past week.

(2) Egypt

- (a) In partnership with the World Bank, WFP signed an agreement with the Government of Egypt to support its Early Childhood Education Enhancement Project (ECEEP). The USD 108-million project is designed to increase access to more than one million children in kindergartens in 18 food-insecure governorates in Upper Egypt and North Sinai. As part of the five-year project, which starts in September, WFP has agreed to collaborate with the Government of Egypt to begin distributing a fortified high-energy snack to more than one million children under the age of five.

(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) Heavy flooding has destroyed the homes and farms of over 100 households in Bubanza province. Affected families have sought shelter in a nearby primary school. Similar weather conditions have destroyed several houses in three zones of Bujumbura Mairie.
- (b) Two international NGO staff were attacked by armed robbers at their residence in Bujumbura Rural province.
- (c) During the past week, WFP distributed a total of 2,060 tons of food aid to some 252,400 beneficiaries, through different project activities.
- (d) The Seeds Protection Rations (SPR) distributions for the 2005 harvest have almost been completed. An SPR distribution was cancelled in Kabarore zone, Kayanza province, due to insecurity in the area. Some small-scale distributions are taking place in areas where distributions were cancelled due to insecurity.
- (e) Public verifications of distribution lists for targeted distributions were carried out by WFP staff in conjunction with local committees and the administration in the provinces of Ngozi, Cankuzo and Kayanza. Food monitors reported some errors of inclusion and exclusion in the targeting process and took measures to rectify them. Monthly food security monitoring exercises took place in Mwaro, Bururi, Bujumbura Rural and Karuzi provinces. The results will be included in WFP's Monthly Early Warning Alert Report.
- (f) A rapid food needs assessment carried out in Karuzi province disclosed a need for food assistance for approximately 2,500 households whose crops have been lost due to a prolonged dry-spell. The results will be analysed and an appropriate response made.
- (g) Sixteen new Food-For-Work projects have been approved and will be implemented in three communes of Muyinga province. The projects will target some 27,185 households with over 4,200 tons of food.

(2) Congo, DR

- (a) The tougher stance taken by the UN Mission in the Democratic Republic of Congo (MONUC) towards militia groups in Ituri district has given a new momentum to the

process of disarmament in the area. Over 8,000 militiamen have reportedly surrendered their weapons. MONUC's ultimatum to uncontrolled militia groups in Ituri district expired on 31 March. After this deadline, MONUC will use coercive means against recalcitrant forces to implement demobilisation process. Meanwhile, MONUC's current mandate has been extended for an additional one year, with a view to securing the electoral process in the whole country.

- (b) An increasing number of displaced people continued to be reported from WFP's various offices in the East. In South Kivu province, an influx of over 23,000 newly displaced to Kalonge, Bunyakiri and Kavumu was reported. A WFP-led needs assessment mission in North Kivu province indicated that military harassment of rural populations remained high. In some areas, the local population told the mission they could not sell their products unless soldiers already completed their own commercial activities.
- (c) The government has expressed concern over the spreading of Marburg hemorrhagic fever that may spill over the border with Angola into the south-western DRC/Angola border area. The fever outbreak has been expanding in the Angolan province of Uige, so far killing over 123 people. Health officials stressed that, with the support of WHO, all preventive measures (including the training of local health workers, improvement on surveillance) were being taken.
- (d) Food distribution was hindered by two major factors. Persistent insecurity in the east coupled with harassment by armed men, either regular DRC troops or uncontrolled militia groups, has directly affected WFP targeted beneficiaries. According to local sources, armed men in rural areas near Bukavu took food rations from beneficiaries. During this month, WFP participated in four joint UN emergency needs assessment missions, investigating the possibilities of implementing income generating activities for women victims of rape.
- (e) In Ituri district, the encamped IDPs caseload had reportedly increased from an initial 88,000 people in early March to 97,000. WFP provided additional food commodities and also prepared for the provision of food to groups of returnees in anticipation of the forthcoming rainy season and consequent impassability of roads.
- (f) Airlift operations to supply food distribution sites in North Katanga and Maniema were suspended due to sudden increases in fuel prices and the subsequent demands by transport companies to review contracts already signed with WFP.

(3) Djibouti

- (a) The sixth convoy of the ongoing voluntary repatriation phase of refugees originating from Somaliland left Djibouti on 17 March. A total of about 615 refugees (92 families) from Holl Holl and Ali Addeh refugee camp were repatriated to Borama in Somaliland. WFP provided all refugees with a nine-month food package.
- (b) The second and third repatriation by air of Somali refugees originating from the west-north part of Somalia (Puntland) was organized on 23 and 27 March. A total of 197 refugees from the Aour Aoussa transit camp were repatriated to Bossasso in Puntland with the assistance of UNHCR.
- (c) The closure of the Aour Aoussa transit camp by UNHCR is planned for the coming months. At present the camp hosts a caseload of 4,000 refugees originating from South Somalia (Mogadishu region) who will be soon be moved to Ali Addeh camp. This transfer will solve the problem of water supply encountered in Aour Aoussa camp and show the international community the willingness to close one of the three existing camps before the end of 2005. The total number of refugees requiring humanitarian assistance is at present estimated to be 15,630 persons.
- (d) After one year of operation, FEWSNET Djibouti gave Djibouti Government Officials two

CD ROMs containing 12 digitalized maps and one high-resolution satellite image of Djibouti-city. WFP closely collaborates with the FEWSNET Djibouti office in the collection and analysis of data relating to food security and population vulnerability. Three rapid food needs assessment missions have been conducted jointly with FEWSNET since October 2004.

- (e) A USAID/Food for Peace (FFP) mission visited Djibouti from 26 to 30 March. The mission met with WFP and visited WFP's Port warehouses and facilities, including the port offices. The mission members were impressed by the excellent working relationships which exist between WFP, port authorities and port operators.

(4) Eritrea

- (a) On 24 March 2005, Lloyd Axworthy, the Special UN envoy for Ethiopia and Eritrea told Reuters that Ethiopia and Eritrea run the risk of starting a new war over a long-running dispute, with tensions being fueled by irresponsible arms sales to both nations. He further mentioned that the two countries had adopted "a more military tone to the dialogue" and called on the international community to clamp down on arms sales to the two nations.
- (b) On March 24, the WHO Representative in Eritrea reported that the onset of seasonal rains in Eritrea had helped to bring under control an outbreak of meningitis in the southern Debub Zone. He further announced plans to vaccinate about 25,000 people in Debub zone, an area where meningitis is endemic, but mentioned that the chances of recurrence were slim because of the forthcoming rainy season.
- (c) Grassroots International, a US aid organization, which works to advance political, economic and social rights and support development alternatives, announced on Wednesday 23 March that it would stop funding projects in Eritrea, citing political repression and worsening human rights conditions there.
- (d) The Minister of Land and Water Resources informed the Eritrea Daily that Around two thirds of the population have no access to clean drinking water. He mentioned that severe drought and lack of sufficient resources had stymied government efforts to provide drinking water for a larger number of people. Water availability is still reported as a serious problem for most of the country, resulting in an increase in the price per barrel. The newly commenced spring rains (Asmera rains) are still erratic, scarce and badly distributed in Gash-Bark and Northern Red Sea, although rainfall was registered in almost all areas of Zola Debub, Zola Make and Logo Ameba.
- (e) Market prices of basic commodities continue to be very high. Especially for impoverished population groups whose income from the sale of charcoal, livestock and ornaments has been seriously affected by the drought and economic crisis. Food assistance still appears to be the major - and in a significant number of cases - the only survival mechanism for people in rural areas.
- (f) Commitment to EMOP 10261.1 stand at USD 31.7 million or approximately 91,830 tons of food commodities. This amount covers 84 percent of this operation's total food commodities requirements. The commitment coverage for the PRRO 10192 remains at USD 42.1 million, representing 83 percent of the operation requirements.

(5) Ethiopia

- (a) Current funding of the emergency food component of the 2005 Humanitarian Appeal, using confirmed pledges and a written commitment of a pledge to the government, has now increased to around 50 percent of the total adjusted requirements of 435,250 tons (for general rations needs of 396,306 tons plus the targeted supplementary feeding programme needs of 38,943 tons). Further pledges are under negotiation, but need to

be confirmed soon to avoid a serious break in the pipeline in coming months. In April, some 3.1 million people will need 57,700 tons of emergency food aid. As described below, there have been some improvements in the rainfall situation, but there is deepening concern about nutritional conditions in parts of the south of the country; food security and water conditions in other areas of concern; and general stress among the population at risk.

- (b) Following the predominantly dry weather in most of the country in February, there was a significant improvement in rainfall in March in most areas. Planting of Belg crops (short season crops harvested in July) has taken place with the rain in the limited areas of the country which grow Belg crops. The rain is also important for planting long-cycle crops, which are harvested late in the year, and for replenishing pasture and water sources. While rainfall has decreased in the last dekad of March, this is not seen as posing a danger to areas where Belg crops were planted earlier in the month, unless there is an extended dry spell.
- (c) In Tigray, some planting in highland Belg-producing areas of Southern Tigray zone was carried out with unseasonable rains in December and January. These crops suffered stress due to the dry spell in February, and replanting with short-cycle varieties took place recently with the rain. Lowland Belg-producing areas of Southern Tigray zone have had a very low amount of rain. In Amhara Region, rains also improved in March, and coverage included Belg-dependent districts.
- (d) Good rains throughout many parts of Southern Nations, Nationalities and Peoples Region (SNNPR) are reported, but food aid needs are significant at this time of the year, which in this region is the hungry season. The March rain is seen as positive for the sweet potato crop, currently at maturing stage, which is an important bridging crop in many areas (especially Wolayita, Hadiya and Kambata-Tambaru zones), filling part of the food gap in the period before Belg crops are harvested.
- (e) However, there are increasing indications of factors, which are leading to a potentially critical health and nutrition situation in several localized parts of SNNPR. The situation is already reported to be critical in Boricha district of Sidama zone, where food distributions including blended food under the temporarily expanded emergency programme are now taking place, to cover urgent needs while the Productive Safety Net Programme is getting started. UNICEF and the regional Bureau of Health are considering various options to deal with increasing numbers of malnourished children in the district. Targeted supplementary food distributions are taking place in Boricha under the joint WFP/UNICEF Enhanced Outreach Strategy/Child Survival Initiative, though there have been problems in the screening process and in the transportation of food. Another nutritional survey is being conducted in Boricha by the NGO GOAL, in coordination with the government and UNICEF. Other areas of SNNPR where there have been reports of declining nutritional status are being closely monitored.
- (f) Parts of Afar Region have benefited from the rain, though the water and pasture situation remains precarious in the north of the region, and it will take time before pastoral livelihoods recover even in areas now receiving rain. Continuation of the rains into April is crucial.
- (g) The main season Gu rains are expected in Somali Region in the coming two months, with heavy localized Todob rains (rains which precede the main Gu rains) recently falling in parts of Jijiga, Fik and Shinile zones; light showers have also been reported over the past month in parts of Afder zone. Areas of special concern remain Gashamo district in Degehabour zone and areas of chronic water shortage. In Afder zone, deteriorating conditions are reported in West Imi district, and among IDPs from bordering areas in Oromiya Region who are arriving in Guradamole district.

(6) Rwanda

- (a) Due to the continued increase in refugees from DRC and Burundi (over 50,000 against the planned 35,000 refugees) and the rupture in the commodity pipeline, WFP is forced to cut the refugee rations of cereals and pulses by 30 percent effective from April. WFP has already exhausted all other options, including loans from other projects in the country, suspension of Food-For-Work projects and giving first priority to refugee feeding. This week was marked by the lowest ever amount of food distributed to beneficiaries in Rwanda in the recent past - due to the shortage of food. Future prospects seem bleak. A regional loan of 2,000 tons of cereals and 1,500 tons of pulses could relieve the burden on PRRO demands.
- (b) During the current week, over 630 Burundian and 29 Congolese new arrivals were reported in Gikonko, Nyamure, Nkamira and Nyagatare camps. With an additional 265 previously unregistered infants, the monthly increase is 925 persons: the second highest increase since mid-October 2004. The total number of refugees now stands at 50,302 (44,856 Congolese and 5,446 Burundian). Food distributions were carried out in Kiziba, Kigeme, Gikonko, Nkamira and Gihembe camps.
- (c) UNICEF has established a nutrition centre in Nkamira Transit Camp in Gisenyi province, to assist malnourished children and pregnant and nursing women. WFP has provided some 4 tons of food commodities (CSB, vegetable oil and sugar) for supplementary feeding of these 336 children and 108 women.
- (d) A total of 65 Rwandans returned from Congo via Nkamira Transit Centre. A three-month ration was provided to them before their repatriation to their areas of origin.

(7) Somalia

- (a) Somalia continues to present a highly unpredictable social, political and economic situation. The increased general insecurity and lawlessness, as a consequence of that situation, negatively affects WFP operations in many parts of Somalia; notably in parts of Sool and Sanag in the north, Gedo, Bay and Bakol in the South, and Galgadud/South Mudug in central Somalia, where active clan fighting has been reported in Hobyo district.
- (b) Humanitarian aid workers have been evacuated to Nairobi after fierce fighting between different wings of the Rahanweyn Resistance Army that controls Bay and Bakol region. A delegation of Transitional Federal Government (TFG), comprising ministers and parliamentarians who were to assess the security situation in Baidoa (one of the two cities chosen as the possible future seat of the TFG) have been unable to visit the town and have been stranded in Hudur, 180 km to the north.
- (c) WFP Somalia continues to assist the Tsunami-affected communities along the northeast coastline of Somalia, with relief distributions of over 290 tons aimed at reaching almost 19,000 of the total targeted 30,000 beneficiaries in the third round of monthly distributions, despite the long distances and poor roads.
- (d) WFP Somalia in partnership with African Rescue Committee (AFREC), a local NGO has successfully completed the distribution of 824 tons of food commodities to 99,500 beneficiaries in Marere and satellite villages, along the Juba River in the south. This particular food distribution targeted the Bantu riverine communities who have suffered four consecutive years of poor harvest, due to drought.

(8) Sudan

- (a) DARFUR:
- (b) In spite of increased insecurity along the two main road corridors into El Fasher and Nyala, WFP has dispatched a total of 45,085 tons of food by road and air from Khartoum and El Obeid to the Darfur state capitals, exceeding the March distribution

plan of 36,795 tons and the overall monthly dispatch plan of 43,120 tons. It should be noted that the monthly despatch plan includes 6,325 tons for dispatch to West Darfur for pre-positioning purposes.

- (c) WFP will start airlifting commodities to El Fasher in an effort to augment cereal deliveries to this state. Direct deliveries have also started from El Obeid to Kutum and Kebkabiyah, where there are WFP field offices. Dispatches from the three state capitals to Cooperating Partners (CPs) between 1 and 28 March total some 24,765 tons to an estimated 1.3 million beneficiaries (based on dispatches). WFP had planned to reach 1.9 million beneficiaries in March. However, in view of the limitations caused by insecurity in March, it is unlikely that this target will now be met.
- (d) The inter-agency assessment, including WFP, in Dar Zagawa, North Darfur was completed on 24 March. Preliminary findings indicate that coping mechanisms amongst the local population are incrementally diminishing due to limited access to markets, inaccessibility of normal livestock migration routes and declining wild food stocks. The situation for the IDPs was found to be even worse. The mission recommended general food distribution for all assessed communities at half-rations and for all IDPs at full-rations from April to December 2005. Health and education-related assessments were also recommended. The final report of the assessment mission is expected in the next two weeks.
- (e) As previously reported, the USD 30 million budget revision is currently undergoing approval to increase the cereal ration from 13.5 kilograms to 15 kilograms per beneficiary per month from March to December 2005.
- (f) To cover the requirements of a monthly average of 2.3 million beneficiaries, WFP has estimated a total requirement of some 453,216 tons (USD 438.2 million). So far, WFP has received USD 260.4 million, representing 60 percent of total requirements. It should be noted that the requirements do not take into account the budget revision currently undergoing approval.
- (g) The cereal pipeline will most likely remain healthy until the end of September. However, the status of the non-cereals pipeline remains a serious concern. Despite loans of USD 20 million and borrowings of 31,000 tons of commodities to meet non-cereal requirements, pipeline breaks for all non-cereals are imminent. Contributions are urgently required for non-cereals so that WFP can 1) guarantee a complete food basket to beneficiaries and 2) successfully pre-position commodities in key locations before the onset of the rainy season. The non-cereal requirements for the months, March-August, are estimated at a total of about 18,055 tons.
- (h) The Special Operation for logistics support in Darfur faces a shortfall of USD 5 million. One hundred long-haul trucks must be procured quickly to augment current the logistics capacity.
- (i) The WFP Humanitarian Air Services, which provides services to the entire humanitarian community in Sudan, faces a shortfall of USD 17 million. Of this, USD 5 million is urgently required to continue contracting and deploying the passenger aircraft required in the coming months in support of the movement of passengers and humanitarian cargo in Sudan.
- (j) SOUTH, EAST and TRANSITIONAL AREAS:
- (k) During the week, the security situation in Unity State was tense due to incidents of cattle theft which resulted in fighting among local tribes. Consequently, Mirmir town has received close to 490 IDPs who fled the violence. WFP and OCHA offices in Bentiu were informed by local authorities that arrangements are underway to move the IDPs in Mirmir to their area of origin in Mayom. WFP was requested by the state Wali to provide humanitarian assistance to the IDPs on their way home.

- (l) In Juba, the security situation continues to be tense as a result of two Uganda-based, Lord Resistance Army activities. A WFP food aid convoy, which departed from Lokichoggio, was attacked by unidentified gunmen between Kapoeta, Bahr El Ghazal State and Torit, Jongley State. No one was hurt but personal belongings were taken.
- (m) In Upper Nile State, confirmed reports indicate the presence of 1,051 returnees in Haat and Wumlit areas. In Bahr El Ghazal State, the Sustainable Return Team also reported 1,224 returnees in Cuibet County where WFP is already assisting some 3,500 beneficiaries, including these returnees.
- (n) The Catholic Church in Western Equatoria is organizing the repatriation of 15,320 IDPs in Mabia camps to their areas of origin. Local authorities and IDP representatives requested WFP to deliver their April food rations earlier in the month, before they move.
- (o) In the Nuba Mountains, 165 persons returned to Julud area from White Nile and Senaar States. According to the Sudanese Red Crescent, 411 new returnees arrived from Khartoum and Atbra. Returnees indicated that they voluntarily returned to prepare for the agricultural season before the rains. A joint meeting which included WFP, the Nuba Mountains Programme Advancing Conflict Transformation (NMPACT), UNICEF, SCF-US discussed possibilities of establishing a tracking system for the returnees by creating checkpoints in five locations.
- (p) During the week, WFP completed the head count, registration and distribution of tokens to 39,685 beneficiaries in six locations in Bor. Airdrop operations, which started on 20 March, are still ongoing. Food distributions of a 50 percent ration for two months are due to start next week.
- (q) A joint WFP/Humanitarian Aid Commission (HAC)/Adventist Development and Relief Agency International (ADRA)/Sudan Aid/Sudanese Church Council (SCC) left Malakal by barge on 28 March to distribute food to IDPs in Kodok. ADRA and UN-OCHA coordinated the distribution of non-food items. A total of 36 tons of mixed food commodities was distributed to 325 families (1,950 individuals).
- (r) WFP commenced with the third cross-line road convoy during the month, to areas in the Nuba Mountains. The convoy of 22 trucks left El Obeid to deliver 316 tons of food to Kauda and Karkar in the Nuba Mountains.
- (s) The WFP pipeline for this EMOP 10048.3 is still facing a critical break in sugar. All other commodities will start facing breaks in June. This is particularly worrying in view of the already large requirements, expected to increase during the hunger gap in May to September. Confirmation of contributions is urgently required to allow commodities to be pre-positioned before the onset of the rainy season. The emergency operation, valued at USD 302 million, has so far received only USD 46 million, representing only 15 percent of the total operational requirements.
- (t) The supporting Special Operation, SO 10368.0, valued at USD 89 million, requires urgent donor contributions to cover shortfalls. To date, this SO has received USD 27.5 million, representing about 30 percent of the total requirements.

(9) Tanzania

- (a) WFP Tanzania is monitoring the food situation in neighbouring countries, following recent reports of drought late in the growing season in Botswana, Malawi, Mozambique, Zambia and Zimbabwe. The regional drought may affect WFP's capacity to procure food in those countries and may lead to increased demand for Tanzania.
- (b) Almost 3,400 refugees returned to Burundi during February.
- (c) Close to 402,600 beneficiaries received some 1,130 tons of food through general distribution, supplementary and therapeutic feeding in refugee camps in western Tanzania. Over 10,000 Tanzanians in the host communities surrounding the camps

were also supported.

- (d) A new ration modification took effect on 14 March, increasing the ration provided to refugees from 1,323 Kcals to 1,617 Kcals per day (87 percent of the normal ration level). While the maize ration was augmented, the PRRO still faces serious shortfalls of corn-soya blend, vegetable oil and salt for the coming months.

(10) Uganda

- (a) The Lord's Resistance Army (LRA) rebels have killed, kidnapped and mutilated dozens of civilians in northern Uganda, raising the levels of fear and anxiety among the population. In recent weeks, there has been a marked increase in the brutality used to terrorize civilians. No date has been set for further consultations between the LRA rebels and the Government.
- (b) On the afternoon of 26 March, a group of marauding LRA rebels attacked Melijo village, in Adjumani district, West Nile region. The rebels abducted 14 persons, including a female refugee. Ten of the abductees managed to escape from captivity. LRA rebels torched over 76 huts, battered six people to death, looted household property and abducted an unknown number of people in Dzaipi village in Adjumani district in mid-March.
- (c) WFP food distributions continue to reach 1.4 million displaced persons, 192,000 refugees and other vulnerable persons. During the period from 19 to 25 March, WFP distributed some 3,500 tons of relief food assistance to almost 326,000 persons including IDPs sheltering in camps in Gulu, Kitgum, Pader and Lira districts, refugees, children in nutrition centres and other vulnerable persons.
- (d) The US Ambassador to the UN Agencies for Food and Agriculture in Rome, together with the WFP Regional Director for East and Central Africa and the Uganda Country Director, visited Gulu district in northern Uganda from 21 to 22 March to assess the humanitarian situation in the region. In Gulu district, the delegation visited WFP projects, including two camps receiving WFP relief food assistance, a Supplementary Feeding Centre and a WFP-assisted primary school.
- (e) The WFP Emergency Food Security Assessment (EFSA) was completed in 10 camps in Kitgum district on 20 March. The assessment mission is currently ongoing in Gulu district after which it will continue to Pader and Lira districts.
- (f) WFP faces a shortfall of about 108,135 tons of food commodities (86,259 tons cereals, 8,784 tons pulses, 9,883 tons fortified blended foods, 2,953 tons vegetable oil, 57 tons salt and 200 tons sugar) with a funding gap of USD 55 million, required to maintain the food pipeline necessary to continue providing relief assistance to IDPs and refugees through December. Unless new contributions are confirmed soon, WFP will run out of commodities in June, and the nutritional status of the 1.4 million internally displaced persons in northern Uganda, mostly women and children, will be jeopardized.

(D) West Africa: (1) Regional (2) Chad (3) Cote d'Ivoire (4) Liberia

(1) Regional

- (a) Countries assisted under WFP's West Africa Coastal Protracted Relief and Recovery Operation (PRRO), have undertaken several actions to mitigate the effects of the pipeline shortages, including in Liberia, where rations for refugees, IDPs and returnees have been reduced since June 2004; in Guinea, refugee rations have been reduced since September 2004 and Food for Work and Food for Training activities which were planned to start in January have not yet commenced; in Sierra Leone, Food for Work and Food for Training activities have also been suspended. Unless new contributions are confirmed soon, WFP will be forced to continue reduced rations for refugees and

IDPs and possibly suspend more activities. Additional donor support is urgently needed

(2) Chad

- (a) The security situation remained relatively calm in eastern Chad, with minor incidents reported around the camps. Some incidents were reported near the Chad-Sudan border (Bahai-Tine) but they were associated with the theft of cattle and other livestock.
- (b) The joint WFP/UNHCR registration exercise has been completed in all camps. Final results are expected to be released in the current week. The targeted caseload for the month of March was 193,800 refugees. UNCHR reported approximately 200 new arrivals that have crossed the border since 25 March. The refugees are expected to be transferred to Kounoungou camp. Some refugees waiting to be located from the border near Adre may be transferred to the new camp site of Gaga, which is currently undergoing works. Water scarcity continues to raise concerns, particularly in Touloum.
- (c) At least 45 cases of Kwashiorkor have been reported in the Supplementary and Therapeutic Feeding Centres in Touloum. WFP's nutritional partners are investigating the reasons behind the sudden increase in the number of cases.
- (d) March distributions at full rations were completed in all eleven camps. WFP provided some 3,255 tons of general food rations to approx. 191,340 beneficiaries. Another 4,000 refugees in Touloum and Iridimi, who had not yet been integrated into the new targeted caseload following the WFP/UNHCR registration exercise, were also assisted, receiving some 68.5 tons.
- (e) Under the Blanket Supplementary Feeding programme, WFP distributed some 31 tons of food to a total of 7,035 beneficiaries in Oure Cassoni. The distributions are ongoing in Djabal, Touloum, and Iridimi camps.
- (f) WFP Food-For-Work activities (FFW) for host communities are currently underway. In Guereda, WFP distributed some 2.2 tons of rice, beans and oil to a total of 130 workers during the reporting week. Another distribution is scheduled to take place during the current week. Meanwhile, a rehabilitation project for the Tine-Iriba, Iriba-Ere and Iriba-Touloum routes is under negotiation between WFP and the prefet of Iriba.
- (g) A joint meeting was held between WFP Farchana and local administration officials during the current week to discuss WFP's School Feeding programme and allocation of food. WFP expects to deliver over 14 tons of food to 495 children in ten schools in Bahai as of next week.
- (h) WFP pre-positioning of food for the rainy season is ongoing in eastern Chad.
- (i) An MTV mission, accompanied by WFP, visited Iridimi, Touloum, Am Nabak, Farchana and Bredjing camps. They also witnessed ongoing WFP distributions, as well as some FFW activities for the local population, and visited a number of supplementary and therapeutic feeding centres. The film should be broadcasted next week on the MTV Network.

(3) Cote d'Ivoire

- (a) Distributions are continuing in Cote d'Ivoire, and from 24 to 30 March, some 230 tons of food were distributed to 32,000 people.
- (b) Preparations are underway for the 2005 agricultural programme. Villages that have seen displacements along the road from Duekoue to Bangolo will be included in this programme to help the returning populations restart their agricultural activities. Seeds and tools will be distributed along with a seed protection ration.
- (c) The pipeline situation for cereals is very alarming, with serious shortfalls starting next month and continuing through August. Pipeline breaks during this period are serious for

several reasons, including the uncertainty of the security and political situation in the country, which makes it imperative for WFP to have the necessary contingency stocks if further population movements and displacements occur. Additionally, this period is the planting season when WFP plans to support agricultural projects, through which seed protection rations are given along with seeds and tools (in an effort to ensure that farmers are not tempted to eat the seeds and to ensure that they have the necessary energy to be able to work in their fields). Furthermore, this is the lean season in Cote d'Ivoire, when food stocks are lowest and beneficiary needs are highest. In order to avoid these pipeline breaks, contributions are needed as soon as possible to enable local purchases or speedy deliveries.

(4) Liberia

- (a) As of 29 March, more than 100,000 IDPs and Liberian refugees have been repatriated and reintegrated, including 8,000 Liberian returnees and 95,000 IDPs since the beginning of the programmes that started in Oct and Nov 2004, respectively. WFP has supported the effort with 3,500 tons of food.
- (b) Distributions are continuing in Liberia, and from 21 to 27 March, some 1,500 tons of food were distributed to 192,000 beneficiaries.
- (c) WFP and partners including UNICEF, UNHCR, Save the Children-UK and the Ministry of Health conducted a Food Security and Nutrition Survey in Grand Gedeh County. Preliminary results indicate that agricultural production remains extremely low. WFP is currently supporting an emergency school feeding programme, Food Support for Local Initiative (Agriculture and Infrastructure), resettlement of IDPs and returnees, and selective feeding programmes in this area.
- (d) To mitigate effects of pipeline shortages the rations for refugees, IDPs and returnees have been reduced since June 2004. Additional donor support is urgently needed.

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

(1) Regional

- (a) With the majority of countries in Southern Africa dependant upon rain-fed agriculture, the overall prospects of healthy yields in 2005 are generally unfavourable and deteriorating due to abnormal and erratic rainfall patterns across large areas in the region. According to FAO, southern Mozambique has received less than 30 percent of normal rainfall, while parts of northern and eastern Botswana, central and southern Malawi, the majority of Mozambique, parts of Namibia, northern parts of South Africa, southern and central Zambia, and eastern and southern Zimbabwe have received between 30 – 60 percent of normal rainfall. While some parts of southern Angola (Cuando Cubango province), Lesotho and Swaziland received poor precipitation, recent rains have brought cumulative rainfall up to near-normal levels. However, in many cases the rainfall occurred too late to revive the affected grain crops.
- (b) In addition, low rainfall coupled with long dry spells during late January to March 2005 occurred during the critical time for crop development. Initial crop assessments across the region are raising significant concerns for the prospects of the maize harvest in general. The early cessation of rains is also jeopardizing pasture conditions and water availability for general use and livestock in the coming months.
- (c) Crop and Food Supply Assessment Missions have now been formally requested in Mozambique, Malawi and Swaziland and additional requests may be received from the remaining countries. These missions are likely to be mobilized in April/May 2005.
- (d) South Africa continues to expect a good maize crop and very high carry-over of stocks

from last year. The current SAFEX market prices for white maize is USD 90 per ton, presenting WFP with a valuable procurement opportunity, should critical donor cash be available.

(2) Angola

- (a) During March, Angola suffered an outbreak of Marburg virus (related to Ebola with unknown origins). Since October 2004, the epidemic has claimed more than 120 lives. The outbreak has thus far been confined to the northern Angolan province of Uige. With the number of casualties rising, health experts from the Ministry of Health, the World Health Organization (WHO), the Centre of Disease Control in Atlanta, Georgia, as well as Doctors Without Borders from Spain and France are working to control the situation. WFP is supporting the efforts of the Angolan authorities and WHO by providing logistical support, including air transportation for medical personnel and equipment, road-transport for health experts in Uige, warehousing and distribution of medicines and equipment.
- (b) On 24 March, a joint evaluation mission to the province of Cabinda was undertaken to assess the current situation in the IDP camps. The undertaking consisted of representatives from WFP, various Ministries of the Angolan government and Norwegian cooperating NGO partners. Results found that approximately 25,000 IDPs in the provincial capital had abandoned their villages during the prolonged conflict period. While the mission concluded that for the moment there is no need for food assistance, WFP will continue to monitor the situation closely.
- (c) During the month of March, WFP aimed to distribute 9,000 tons of food to roughly 1 million vulnerable people throughout the country. Approximately 74 percent of the beneficiaries are targeted through General Food Distributions, mainly internal and external returnees and vulnerable residents. A further 10 percent are engaged in Food for Work/Assets (FFW/FFA) activities, while about 11 percent receive assistance through school feeding programmes. Remaining beneficiaries are reached through nutritional and social programmes. Due to continuing access and infrastructure problems, coupled with the increased danger of landmines exposed during the rainy season, logistical problems resulting in delayed food distributions often leads to an increase food insecurity and results in further population movements.
- (d) The Angola Protracted Relief and Recovery Operation (PRRO) 10054.2, Support to Return and Resettlement, continues to be severely under-funded. Despite reduced beneficiary numbers, substantial reductions in Food for Work/Assets (FFW/FFA) activities as well as in school-feeding programmes, the project requires approximately USD 36 million or 60,000 tons of food to complete the programme through the end of 2005.

(3) Lesotho

- (a) Preliminary outcomes from the FAO/WFP Rapid Crop Assessment reveal that the seasonal cumulative rainfall in most areas of the country has been too low for a good maize harvest. Delayed rainfall and disincentives to production resulting from high prices for seed, fertilizer and ploughing led to a decrease in the area planted in the relatively high production areas of Berea and Leribe. Lesotho is facing a third consecutive year of severe food insecurity. Production of the main staple, maize, in 2005 is estimated to be only 86 percent of the five-year average, which includes two very poor years.

(4) Madagascar

- (a) Heavy flooding in March has affected more than 58,000 people in four regions with

some areas remaining flooded. Rains have destroyed crucial rice crops in the eastern Alaotra region, which is the country's top rice-growing area, prompting worries of a second year of shortages.

- (b) The national body for disaster management estimates as many as 25 people have lost their lives and 8,300 have been displaced from their homes due to flooding. Government and UN Agency assessment missions have taken place and found 32,000 hectares of agricultural land completely flooded. WFP in collaboration with implementing partners are prepared to deliver food to the affected population, however bad road conditions are hampering relief efforts.

(5) Malawi

- (a) Although the country appears to have averted a food crisis this season, widespread dry spells experienced in many regions could pose a serious food security threat in the coming period. On 25 February 2005, President Mutharika renewed his appeal to development and humanitarian partners to help the government ensure food security at the national level. Preliminary estimates indicate a 2005 cereal deficit of at least 500,000 tons compared to 400,000 tons in 2004.

(6) Mozambique

- (a) Maize and sorghum planted in November-December 2004 are expected to be harvested in May. Irregular rainfall, well below normal in some districts in the southern region of the country, has significantly reduced soil moisture, stressed pastures and lowered river levels causing water shortages. The driest areas are in Gaza and Inhambane provinces.

(7) Swaziland

- (a) The Ministry of Health and Social Welfare is reviewing information generated from the 9th HIV Sentinel Survey. Preliminary results reveal that HIV prevalence rates measured in 15 – 19 year olds have declined from 32.5 percent in 2002 to 29.3 percent in 2004. At the same time, the survey found a continuing rise in HIV prevalence rates in all other age groups. The national prevalence average among pregnant women rose to 42.6 percent, up from 38.6 percent in 2002. The hardest hit are those aged 25 – 29 years, where prevalence rates were as high as 56 percent. These figures are probably the highest in the world.

(8) Zambia

- (a) Government, WFP and other key stakeholders have completed a rapid vulnerability assessment and concerns are heightened that erratic rainfall and a prolonged dry spell this season will result in a drastic reduction in crop yields, as high as 50 to 100 percent in some areas. Ground water levels are already low in affected areas, and the situation is likely to worsen in the months ahead posing a threat to drinking water for people and livestock. Carry-over stocks from last season are running out and prices for staples have already started rising in anticipation of a poor harvest. In addition, the high prevalence of livestock disease in the Southern and Western provinces has exacerbated food insecurity. The Minister of Agriculture has publicly stated that he is expecting a maize shortfall of approximately 300,000 tons.
- (b) WFP is providing food assistance to over 85,000 needy refugees (88 percent of the total refugee population) in five designated camps. The remainder are in two settlements and have access to agricultural land. Preparations are currently underway to resume the repatriation of Angolan refugees in May. It is planned that 34,000 refugees will be repatriated during 2005. WFP is facilitating the repatriation exercise by

providing hot meals at departure/transit centres as well as providing Humanitarian Daily Rations (HDRs) for repatriating refugees. To facilitate the repatriation process, donor contributions are urgently needed.

(9) Zimbabwe

- (a) Political activities reached a peak during the reporting period in the run-up to the 31 March parliamentary elections. A low level of violence has been observed during the two-month campaign period. However, WFP has this week drastically reduced food and staff movements as a precautionary measure. The restrictions to movement have had little impact on programme implementation because schools closed for the quarterly break on 22 March 2005, (earlier than planned) in preparation for the parliamentary elections. Schools will open again towards the end of April.
- (b) Most early pre-harvest predictions in the country consistently point to a maize and sorghum harvest in 2005 which is well below normal levels. While still too early to collect accurate figures, some reports are suggesting production levels comparable to 2002. The main causes appear to be drought, characterized by long hot dry spells at critical times during the growing of both early and late planted crops, poor distribution of seeds, inadequate supplies and distribution of fertilizer, the non-availability and high cost of mechanized tillage, and inadequate price incentives for farmers. Should harvest predictions be accurate, serious food insecurity for a significant percentage of the population can be anticipated. Preliminary work is underway to prepare for a vulnerability assessment (ZIMVAC), which is anticipated to take place in April/May 2005.
- (c) Meanwhile, WFP continues to assist some 1.1 million people through programmes targeted to especially vulnerable groups including school children, orphans, malnourished children under five, and those affected by HIV/AIDS. However, WFP's pipeline is very fragile with breaks in cereals expected in May, unless additional donor pledges are received in the near future.

(F) Asia: (1) China (2) Indonesia (3) Korea (DPR) (4) Maldives (5) Myanmar (6) Sri Lanka

(1) China

- (a) WFP is making its final food donation to China after more than 25 years of providing aid. A final delivery of 43,450 tons of Canadian wheat worth USD 7.2 million is due to arrive in the southern port of Shenzhen on 7 April. It is destined for poverty alleviation projects in four poor inland provinces. WFP began providing food aid to China in 1979, supporting over 30 million poor Chinese in meeting their immediate food needs and helping build up infrastructure in their communities through Food-For-Work and training activities.

(2) Indonesia

- (a) Less than 10 hours after the undersea earthquake struck off the western coast of Sumatra, WFP launched a major emergency response, using a dedicated fleet of aircraft to deliver emergency aid to the affected islands, while evacuating critically injured people. WFP UN Humanitarian Air Services aircraft including 4 helicopters and 2 Twin Otters, together with one Indonesian C130 have been deployed since early Tuesday to send search-and-rescue teams, emergency medical kits and medicines, and relief assessment teams to Nias and Simuelue Islands. WFP has also given the green light to its NGO partners on those islands to utilize available relief food stocks for the earthquake victims.
- (b) A further 300 tons of rice, canned fish, biscuits and vegetable oil, together with a

portable warehouse, were transported to Nias from Banda Aceh. An additional 8 tons of Humanitarian Daily Rations (HRD) left Banda Aceh to Medan for transfer to Nias. Before this latest crisis, WFP was giving food to some 22,000 tsunami survivors on Simeulue and 2,000 on Nias. Initial estimates from assessment teams on the ground on Nias are that some 200,000 people out of the total population of 450,000 will need food aid for about two months. The airport in Sibolga, on the mainland across from Nias, will serve as a logistics hub servicing the islands

- (c) Dispatches to the targeted areas for WFP's tsunami relief and recovery operations are ongoing. As part of WFP's ongoing tsunami operations, the first general food distribution in Patek for approximately 5,000 beneficiaries was carried out on 28 March. However, due to the diversion of air assets to support the relief operation on Nias and Simeulue Islands, only a one-week ration was distributed. WFP will attempt over the next days to give priority to deliver additional resources to Patek in order to ensure that the full requirements are covered.
- (d) WFP and International Medical Corps (IMC) in Calang are planning to commence a supplementary feeding programme shortly.
- (e) In Lhokseumawe, a one-day training session was held on 30 March to participants from 18 schools to explain the objective, modalities and reporting procedures of the proposed school feeding programme. WFP will deliver fortified biscuits to the selected schools by the end of this week.

(3) Korea (DPR)

- (a) There are presently no chickens or eggs available in the main markets, presumably because of the outbreak of the Avian Influenza, which has now been confirmed.
- (b) Expected rice arrivals will allow WFP to feed all Vulnerable Group Feeding beneficiaries with planned rations through May, while some beneficiaries will also be fed through June. WFP will be faced with serious cereal pipeline breaks thereafter. Moreover, unless new contributions are urgently confirmed, nursery, kindergarten children and pregnant and nursing mothers will not be receiving oil as of April or pulses as of May.
- (c) To save the rapidly depleting Local Food Production (LFP) stock of milk powder, the production of corn soya milk blend (CSM) has temporarily been shifted to corn soya blend (CSB). New donations of milk powder are urgently needed as the current stock of dried skimmed milk will be finished in May. Moreover, the stock of wheat is rapidly depleting at the Hamhung, Wonsan, Chongjin and Hyesan LFP factories and will finish in May. This shortage will jeopardize the production of biscuits, noodles and cereal milk blend (CMB) for children in primary/boarding schools, nurseries and kindergartens as well as pregnant/nursing women on the East Coast. Soybeans stocks will be finished in August.

(4) Maldives

- (a) From mid-February to 21 March a total of some 105 tons of rice and about 30 tons of sugar (borrowed against government stocks) has been distributed under the vulnerable group feeding programme.
- (b) The Government of Maldives has indicated verbally to WFP their interest in the continuation of the vulnerable group feeding programme until the end of 2005 for roughly the same beneficiary group of approximately 40,000 people. The Government would like to continue with the programme to assist the internally displaced persons and those who have suffered loss of livelihoods. A written confirmation of the request is expected by next week.
- (c) A meeting was held on 29 March by the UN Resident Coordinator to discuss lessons

learned from the tsunami alert called on 28 March following the earthquake in Indonesia. The UN Country Team will review security standard operating procedures and see if there is need for follow-up action.

(5) Myanmar

- (a) Fishermen from all the fishing villages in the Thai border area reported that their situation has improved in March - the size of the catch had increased and market prices were again reasonable.
- (b) In Tanintharyi division, food distributions for March (3rd cycle) were completed in KawThaung, targeting 4,170 beneficiaries. Some 60 tons of food were distributed in 11 villages.
- (c) The renovation of the access road (580 feet in length, 15 feet in width, and 3 feet in thickness) to Palonetone bridge was completed in Kawthaung township in the Thai border area. About 600 participants from Palonetone village were involved through WFP Food-For-Work (FFW) activities for 16 days. An additional 123 people from the neighboring village also participated for 3 days. In Orgyi village, FFW activities enabled the clearance of land for new house construction and the repair of a small bridge.
- (d) WFP has been invited by the Chairman of District and Development Council of Myaungmya district in Delta area for the opening ceremony marking the completion of water ponds and an access road made possible by WFP/ADRA FFW activities. To date, 80 percent of road construction and 60 percent of water ponds construction has been already completed through FFW activities.

(6) Sri Lanka

- (a) Insecurity continues in Batticaloa; on 30 March an unidentified person hurled a hand grenade and also fired a weapon at a vehicle that was carrying a prominent member of a Tamil political party.
- (b) WFP has made an official request to the Task Force for Relief (TAFOR) for written confirmation from the Government of Sri Lanka that WFP should continue general food distributions until June. WFP had previously planned to discontinue general food distributions on 7 May. Secondly, due to the rice import ban, WFP in its request has asked the government to provide the rice portion of the food basket for this extended period. For 950,000 beneficiaries and for two months, this would amount to about 11,000 tons of rice, valued at approximately 560,000,000 Sri Lankan Rupees.
- (c) WFP met with authorities in all affected districts to review the progress in food distributions particularly looking at acquiring actual numbers of food distributed and beneficiaries reached. Authorities have been urged to provide these numbers urgently.

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

(1) Bolivia

- (a) Ever since the Congress denied the President's call for early elections, peace has returned to the Bolivian streets and roads. Roadblocks and marches announced for this week were postponed until next Sunday, as protesters wait for the approval of the Hydrocarbons bill before resuming street demonstrations and protests. In the meantime, the Chamber of the Senate is analyzing the bill, previously approved by the members of Parliament. In an attempt to dissuade the Senate Chamber of approving 50 percent of royalties and non-deductible taxes, oil companies sent a document to the Chamber complaining against the excessive charges for gas and oil extraction that will

discourage the gas industry in Bolivia.

- (b) Due to the scarcity of fuel in the department of Santa Cruz, distributions of about 91 tons of food under WFP's emergency operation (EMOP) 10392.0 - Drought in El Chaco region, had to be postponed. Meanwhile, due to the bad conditions of roads, part of the 83 tons of food to be distributed in the municipality of Charagua had to be transported by train.

(2) Colombia

- (a) People continue to flee to the town of Bellavista in the northwestern Chocó province, fearing clashes between armed groups in the area. The Afro-Colombian communities began fleeing their homes in mid-February, and since that time, the number of newly displaced people in Bellavista has reached nearly 1,500. People who were forced to flee last February from the municipalities of Cuia, Caimanero, la Loma and Piedra Candela are still temporarily settled in improvised shelters and at the local school in the municipality of Bellavista. These people have received humanitarian aid from the ICRC. Local authorities have expressed their concern about the situation of these people due to the difficult overcrowded conditions that exist in the current settlements.
- (b) On the other hand, people who refused to flee and remained in communities located on the banks of the Bojaya River are facing difficulties and food shortages due to the blockades and clashes between illegal armed groups. In order to respond to this situation, WFP is preparing a special emergency food aid distribution that will include approximately 4,350 people, including Afro Colombians and some indigenous communities.
- (c) An estimated 14 Colombian soldiers died in in clashes and violent incidents in Putumayo and Nariño provinces and northern Colombia during last week. WFP implements are range of activities in these provinces (except Nariño, where WFP is planning to open a SubOffice in the second semester 2005), but no security incidents have been reported by WFP staff in these areas.
- (d) A total of 575 tons of food were delivered last week in the context of the PRRO 10158, Assistance to People Displaced by Violence. The food was distributed in 13 provinces, reaching 116,815 people. The commodities were distributed in Preschool and School Feeding, Food-For-Crisis and community kitchens activities.

(3) Cuba

- (a) Cuba continues to face the most severe drought of its history. Water levels are very low and many dams will be empty if the shortage of rain continue. The water of dams is only being used for human and animal consumption as one of the strategies to protect the population.
- (b) In the cattle industry, emergency measures are being taken to counteract the drought. This climatic phenomenon was one of the main factors that caused a fall in milk production of almost 800,000 litres in 2004.
- (c) One of the main measures being taken to overcome the situation is to redouble efforts to encourage water saving in the government and private sectors. Citizens are constantly urged to cut back on water use. Some vulnerable groups are receiving an additional food ration provided by the government.
- (d) To address the serious situation concerning food availability in Cuba, which in particular is affecting negatively the nutritional status of vulnerable groups, a WFP emergency operation (EMOP) is in the process of being approved.

(4) Ecuador

- (a) Since December 2004, President Lucio Gutierrez and a government aligned majority bloc in Congress faced a broad political backlash when pro-government lawmakers replaced 27 of Ecuador's 31 Supreme Court judges in a simple majority vote that violated the nation's constitution. On 23 March, police fired tear gas into Ecuador's Congress to disperse opposition lawmakers. In the face of mounting criticism, Gutierrez has proposed a referendum to ask Ecuadorian voters to approve a constitutional amendment to have a new Supreme Court chosen by an independent panel made up of lawyers, unions and other sectors of civil society.

(5) Haiti

- (a) The entire country continues in UN security phase III. The security situation around the port terminals of Port-au-Prince is reportedly deteriorating, with an increase in shooting incidents. Criminal acts are occurring more and more frequently in neighbourhoods so far considered safe, such as Petionville, Musseau and Paco, where most of UN personnel's residences are located. Due to security restriction of movements to WFP areas of interventions, monitoring activities in schools in Port-au-Prince area were cancelled during the week.
- (b) On 20 March, skirmishes between UN troops and ex-soldiers from Haiti's disbanded army in Petite Goave (South) and Terre Rouge (Plateau Central), resulted in at least four deaths, including two peacekeepers. The Sri-Lankan and Nepalese soldiers who died were the first peacekeepers killed in action since the UN troops arrived in June 2004 in Haiti. The showdown signals a tougher stance by MINUSTAH against armed factions in Haiti ahead of elections in the autumn and reflects a broader determination to crack down on militias that threaten civilians where UN troops are deployed.
- (c) During the past week, a total of some 1,010 tons of food were 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.
- (d) WFP is actively supporting the Government's National 2004-2008 campaign for de-worming in the North and North East Departments, targeting all schools in this geographical zone. In this context, preparations are underway for the organization of a series of training sessions to the departmental staff of the Ministries of Health and Education staff on the administration of de-worming tablets to all children enrolled in primary schools in these two departments, including the printing of information and training material. The training process, scheduled to last about a month, will benefit some 16,000 people. Distribution of the WHO/GoH supplied albendazol tablets will take place in May, and reach 2100 schools and 630,000 school children.
- (e) WFP endorsed the project document for a new Protracted Relief and Recovery Operation (PRRO 10382.0) for Haiti, which will encompass contingency, emergency response, nutrition, support to HIV-AIDS and TB, as well as food-for-livelihoods activities. School feeding activities will remain under the development window. The approval process is expected to be finalized in time for the planned starting date of 1 May.
- (f) The UN Country Management Team's Contingency Plan was revised based on the 2004 emergency response experience and lessons learned.

(6) Nicaragua

- (a) Food distributions under PRRO 10212.0 continue and will benefit an estimated 10,365 pregnant and lactating women, 11,160 children under 2 and 53,805 schoolchildren in the Central and Northern Atlantic Regions. Food-For-Work activities will resume shortly.

- (b) PRRO 10212.0 will face shortfalls of rice, beans, vegetable oil, maize and corn-soya blend through August. If no commodities are donated in the coming months or those that are donated arrive late, the PRRO will face serious pipeline breaks during the second quarter of this year

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

WFP Weekly Emergency Report

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