

World Food Programme Emergency Report 2005
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(A) Highlight

- (a) WFP is now providing emergency food assistance to all people in the five zones most affected by Niger's hunger crisis. WFP's expanded emergency operation in the country plans to reach a total of 2.5 million food insecure people.
- (b) WFP is preparing immediate response actions to address a serious increase of food deficit and malnutrition problems in northern Mali and eastern Mauritania.
- (c) Despite heavy rains, WFP in July dispatched over 48,000 tons of commodities to Darfur and another 6,000 tons by airlifts or airdrops.
- (d) A WFP mobile team was deployed to complete distributions to 31,207 beneficiaries in the Zam Zam camp in Sudan's North Darfur region, where the Sudan Liberation Army denied access to the Sudanese Red Cross, national NGO's and Government linked agencies.
- (e) WFP has provided 1,400 tons of food to an estimated 65,000 people affected by the "clean-up operations" of the government of Zimbabwe.
- (f) Completed demining activities in Angola's Kuando Kubango province enable WFP to access vulnerable people in the region.
- (g) Increased violence and road blockades in Colombia hamper WFP food distributions and at the same time create additional need for food assistance.
- (h) WFP's Executive Director urged the Myanmar government to review and reform policies that impede humanitarian efforts to combat growing hunger and poverty.

- (B) Middle East, Central Asia and Eastern Europe:** (1) Afghanistan (2) Iran (3) Occupied Palestinian Territories (4) Pakistan (5) Russian Federation (Caucasus) (6) Tajikistan

(1) Afghanistan

- (a) The security situation remains volatile in the east, southeast and south of the country. Although there was a slight decrease in the number of incidents, there are still threats of improvised explosive device (IED) attacks, landmines and ambushes against the

coalition forces, government and aid workers. On 31 July, a convoy of the United Nations Office for Project Services (UNOPS) was ambushed in the southern province of Hilmand, wounding a local driver and a policeman.

- (b) Flash floods have washed away a bridge in Wardooj in northeastern Badakhshan province, hampering food aid deliveries to nearby areas in the province.
- (c) WFP carried on its humanitarian activities in the areas that were unaffected by security incidents, assisting over 272,300 beneficiaries.

(2) Iran

- (a) Between 1- 26 July 2005, 261 Iraqi refugees living in refugee camps were repatriated with UNHCR assistance. There was no spontaneous repatriation.
- (b) The total number of Afghan refugees that have returned to Afghanistan since 9 April 2002 amounts to 1,228,455 of whom 807,745 were UNHCR assisted and 420,710 were spontaneous. Between 1 –26 July, UNHCR assisted 8,884 returnees while 20,339 repatriated spontaneously. No Afghans living in camps repatriated during that period.
- (c) A new Tripartite Agreement between Iran, Afghanistan and UNHCR was signed at the end of June; the previous agreement had expired on 21 March. The extension of the agreement, known as the Joint Programme, outlines the voluntary repatriation process. The agreement, which will expire in March 2006, foresees that some 200,000 Afghan refugees will be voluntarily repatriated during this period.
- (d) Following the phasing down of food assistance to Afghan refugees in camps at the end of 2004, WFP continues to assist some 7,000 Iraqi refugees living in camps and Afghan refugees repatriating to Afghanistan. Considering the availability of food commodities and the continuing needs of Afghan refugees in camps, discussions are being held with the Government and UNHCR to continue distributing food commodities to Afghan refugees in camps.
- (e) During July, WFP assisted 37,395 refugees and 8,865 returning refugees under its protracted relief and recovery operation (PRRO). The PRRO is fully resourced up to the current termination date of 30 September. WFP is in the process of extending the PRRO in time.

(3) Occupied Palestinian Territories

- (a) The situation in the occupied Palestinian territories (oPt) remains increasingly tense in the run-up to disengagement.
- (b) In the Gaza strip, 2 UN workers were kidnapped for 5 hours before being released unharmed. This is the third kidnapping, involving members of the international community in recent weeks. Clashes have continued between militant groups and the Palestinian Authority (PA) security apparatus; injuries have been reported. Militants continue targeting Israeli settlements with rocket/mortar fire; one rocket went astray and landed on a Palestinian house, killing a 3 year old child.
- (c) In the West Bank, in Hebron, there was an increase in clashes between militants and the Israeli Defense Force (IDF). The IDF carried out a military operation in Jenin, during which one unarmed Palestinian was killed and 7 others wounded.
- (d) In Israel, large scale disengagement protest action continues. Access to Erez crossing point was affected during some of these protests. Further protests blocked main arterial routes and caused disruption to traffic. Protest action over the route of the protective barrier continues with a strong response from the Israeli security forces to any sign of violence.
- (e) The IDF convened a meeting of the International Community in Jenin, to present

various scenarios for West Bank disengagement. Based on the new information, and in close cooperation with UNRWA, WFP will finalise the Country Programme within the framework of the UN interagency Country Programme.

- (f) As long term divisions of the Gaza Strip and IDF incursions have become increasingly likely, WFP has started pre-positioning Sep/Oct allocations in the warehouses of the Ministry of Social Affairs (MSA) in the southern section of the strip.
- (g) Meanwhile, as part of WFP's emergency operation in oPt, from 28 July to 4 August, some 935 tons of food were distributed to 6,350 Social Hardship Cases (SHC) in the West Bank; to 17,440 SHC and New Poor (NP) in the Gaza strip, and to institutions throughout oPt.
- (h) Violence did not cause disruptions to monitoring activities. Assessment of all current institutions was started in preparation for the start of WFP's protracted relief and recovery operation (PRRO). This should be completed by end August 05. Furthermore, WFP is assessing the possibility of creating an early warning mapping system of food insecurity, to highlight areas of particular vulnerability during the disengagement.

(4) Pakistan

- (a) Above average summer temperatures across Pakistan and Afghanistan have led to massive snowmelt, the largest seen in over 100 years. This has resulted in heavy flooding of rivers. The situation has been compounded by heavy monsoon rains across the country. Punjab, Sindh, Northern Areas and North West Frontier (NWFP) provinces are most heavily affected.
- (b) WFP approved an emergency operation (EMOP) on 14 July, through which some 7,900 families in NWFP and Northern Areas are assisted with a food ration, completing the assistance provided by the Government and other actors. Distributions have started already, in collaboration with the International Rescue Committee and Islamic Relief.

(5) Russian Federation (Caucasus)

- (a) Rebel attacks in the North Caucasus have become more frequent and more intense. A Russian air force helicopter in Chechnya crashed on 16 July, killing 8 people. On 19 July, at least 15 people, mostly local police officers, were killed and 35 injured in the bloodiest attack since security forces killed Aslan Maskhadov. Following the attack, President Putin ordered an acceleration of plans to tighten borders in the region.
- (b) On 29 July, internally displaced people (IDPs) in Grozny, Chechnya, blocked the road, demanding the release of an IDP arrested during a mopping-up operation in the IDP temporary accommodation centre. It was reported that the local police used force to unblock the road.
- (c) As part of its emergency operation, WFP released 13 tons of food in early July, in support of the Dining Hall project, through which daily hot meals are served to 1,600 vulnerable people of Grozny city. Furthermore, with the assistance of cooperating partners, over 18 tons of food were distributed –through the Tuberculosis programme– to 645 in- and outpatients in Ingushetia and Chechnya.
- (d) During the second half of July, WFP and partners finalized the 5-6th general food distribution cycles in Chechnya. No distribution took place in Ingushetia where the May-June distribution cycle had already been completed early June. The July distribution was postponed until 8 August due to the delayed arrival of food commodities to WFP warehouses.
- (e) Also during the second half of July, about 2,950 food-for-work (FFW) participants received 465 tons of food commodities for the works implemented in May and June. Additionally, over 13 tons of food were released to the food-for-training project,

benefiting among 209 trainees attending vocational courses in June-July.

- (f) The school-feeding programme, suspended at the end of May, will resume in September, with the coverage of three more northern districts of Chechnya (Nadterechny, Naursky and Shelkovskoy).
- (g) WFP's emergency operation (EMOP) is 78 percent resourced. Starting as of September 2005, pipeline breaks are expected for wheat flour, vegetable oil, sugar, salt and high-energy biscuits, resulting in the reduction of WFP food rations.

(6) Tajikistan

- (a) The Ministry of Emergency Situations reported on 28 July that the flooding situation in Hamadoni district of Khatlon province is not improving. Rising water levels in the Surkhob River are washing away the riverbank protection facilities and are threatening to damage the only bridge connecting Farkhor district with other locations and to flood Somonchi village of Farkhor district. The Ministry, in cooperation with other organizations, continues to undertake mitigation measures to prevent further flooding and has requested assistance to ensure that additional fuel and oil to operate the heavy machinery required are available.
- (b) WFP is distributing food to some 4,115 flood affected people in Hamadoni district. Other assistance continues to be provided by a variety of organizations; e.g. drinking water and other water facilities for the evacuated population. As supplies are ample, disaster affected areas in Penjikent district of Sughd province and Nurobod district of Rasht Valley will also be assisted.

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

(1) Burundi

- (a) Road ambushes, mainly followed by robbery of civilian passengers, were reported in Bubanza and Cibitoke provinces. Killing of civilians, attributed to either Front for National Libération (FNL) or bandits, were reported in several locations. UN operations remained suspended in the northern areas of Bubanza province due to insecurity.
- (b) Last week, WFP distributed 1,095 tons of food aid to 98,745 beneficiaries.
- (c) The level of WFP provided food distributions increased, due to improved stocks. Most distributions assisted the lifesaving nutritional centre programme and HIV/AIDS patients, while a few supported food-for-work (FFW)/food-for-training (FFT) activities. Suspension of targeted distributions and ration cuts continue in order to ensure sufficient stocks for the seeds protection campaign.
- (d) WFP continued to monitor the food security situation in the hunger-affected provinces of Ngozi, Muyinga and Kirundo, that host a noticeable number of asylum-seekers from Rwanda. Increased FFW activities in these areas are expected to stabilize the situation.
- (e) WFP supplied biscuits for 2,570 Rwandan asylum-seekers dispersed with host families in Kirundo, Ngozi, Cankuzo and Muyinga provinces. Further food assistance is under preparation.
- (f) A household vulnerability study, to complement the results of the Crop and Food Supply Assessment, will be completed this week, to help WFP determine the areas of intervention and the level of needs.
- (g) WFP continues to face serious food pipeline constraints due to insufficient funding. Various food aid activities have been put on hold, or their rations halved. Only a few key projects are implemented at full capacity. The problems come at a time when the most

vulnerable people in Burundi need food support.

(2) Congo

- (a) WFP has launched a nutrition programme for people living with HIV/AIDS in Point-Noire, Nkayi and Dolisie in Kouilou, Bouenza and Niari regions respectively. A total of 500 WFP beneficiaries will be covered by this programme with basic indicators for body mass index for adults, and the weight and size for children from 0 to 5 years old. The nutrition programme was launched in Brazzaville in June this year.
- (b) During the last two weeks, WFP was able to transfer a total of almost 315 tons of food from Pointe-Noire to the extended delivery points of Brazzaville and Nkayi. This transfer has led to an increase in food distributions compared to the previous month.

(3) Congo, DR

- (a) On Tuesday 2 August, Médecins sans Frontières-France (MSF-F) officially suspended all activities outside of Bunia, the capital city of Ituri district. The resurgence of insecurity, compounded with the kidnapping of two MSF-F staff in June this year, prompted this decision. This is the second time, since the beginning of 2005, that an international NGO has suspended humanitarian activities in this troubled area due to breaches of humanitarian principles by uncontrolled armed factions. In February 2005, the withdrawal of aid workers from areas such as Tche, Kakwa, Gina left more than 100,000 persons without medical care for ten days and resulted in high mortality in these areas during that period.
- (b) In addition, over 1,500 peasant farmers and their families have fled from Bule (Djugu territory), an area 70 km northeast of Bunia, to seek refuge in Fataki, Rule and surrounding areas. The villagers reportedly escaped violence linked to a recent attack by Union pour le Congo (UPC) militiamen on Forces Armées pour la République Démocratique du Congo (FARDC) position in Bule, a small locality that serves as a major breadbasket for Bunia. The closure of the market in Bule would most likely have an adverse effect on food security in Bunia and exacerbates instability in this part of Ituri district.
- (c) In Katanga province, WFP targeted food insecure people through several activities including vulnerable group feeding, food-for-work, food-for-training and school feeding. A total of 535 tons of food was provided to various implementing partners, to feed 9,250 people, including demobilized soldiers and street children.
- (d) In the province of North Kivu, persistent conflict, particularly in Lubero and Rutshuru territories, prevented humanitarian access to thousands of internally displaced persons (IDPs). However, WFP dispatched over 235 tons of assorted commodities to Cooperating Partner (CP) to cover the food needs of 29,620 beneficiaries previously assessed in these areas. Under the escort of United Nations Mission in the Democratic Republic of Congo (MONUC), WFP undertook post-distribution monitoring in Kiwanja (Rutshuru) in the IDP community. Most of the internally displaced persons (IDPs) interviewed indicated the loss of their belongings and requested WFP's assistance when resettlement begins. Reports from implementing partners in Lubero territory indicated that 7,250 displaced families from Nyakakoma, Ishasha and Nyamilima were fed last week with 60 tons of food.

(4) Eritrea

- (a) The National Food Information System (NFIS) reported a promising onset of the Kremti rainy season. The Ministry of Agriculture has extensive plans to improve food production by increasing the planted area and distributing agricultural inputs. However, the protracted effects of war and poor rainfall during the past years will not vanish

easily. There are still three critical months ahead.

- (b) The administration officers of several UN organizations in Eritrea are now requesting ration cards for their international staff members. With these cards, the staff members will be able to purchase oil, flour, coffee, tea, noodles and pulses in the fair-price shops. The quantity assigned to each person will depend on the family size.
- (c) WFP field officers report promising rainfall from all over the country. Vegetation coverage is improving and animals are recovering from the effects of the drought. Crops have been planted and are growing satisfactorily due to the favourable weather conditions. However, one field office cautioned that even an excellent harvest would cover only 3 – 5 months food needs due to the extremely small size of farmers' fields, which is about 0.5 ha in the sub-region of Adi Tekelezan in the north-central part of the country.
- (d) WFP commitment coverage for emergency operation (EMOP) 10261.01 reaches approximately USD 60 million or 80 percent of the total cost to WFP. Coverage for the protracted relief and recovery operation (PRRO) 10192.0 remains at USD 44.1 million, representing 85 percent of operational requirements. The contributions registered under the PRRO 10192.1, whose implementation is to start on first September, increased to approximately USD 42.6 million, representing 20 percent of the total cost of the project through a new contribution of about USD 6 million.

(5) Ethiopia

- (a) The food security situation in some areas, notably in pockets of Southern Nations and Nationalities People's Region (SNNPR), Oromiya and Amhara Regions, is still of concern. In SNNPR, the affected areas are mainly located in lowland part of Sidama (Dara, Dale, Shebedino, and Boricha) in Wolayta zone (Bolosso Sore and Damot Woide) in Kambata-Tambaro zone (Kedida-Gamela and Kacha- Bira) and Alaba (special woreda). In Oromiya, the lowland parts of East Hararghe and Bale Zones are the most affected, although the food security situation has improved in a number of districts in Bale. In Amhara, the most critical areas are located in Wag Hamra.
- (b) In the recent Awash River flooding, 800 households were reportedly affected in five Kebeles of Det-Bahri of Dupti woreda (Afar region). Disaster Prevention and Preparedness Commission (DPPC) arranged to supply the flood victims with food and non-food items. The full damage caused by the floods is not yet known, but DPPC has sent a team from its Early Warning Department to make a rapid assessment.
- (c) The July relief programme dispatches to Afar, Amhara ,Oromiya and Tigray regions is on-going while dispatches to Somali region are still being processed as the request came in late. The SNNPR allocations are still under discussion among the regional and federal DPPC. The only woreda in SNNPR that received July dispatches (including corn-soya blend and high energy biscuits) is Hulla, an area of concern.
- (d) WFP Ethiopia continues to distribute CSB through supplementary feeding activities in Ethiopia, such as the EOS/CSI (Targeted Supplementary Feeding). After it was noted that a small percentage of bags had poorly mixed vitamins and minerals, out of 16,000 tonnes in stock, 4,700 tonnes have been set aside for reblending to bring the fortification levels to normal standards. However, the unaffected stock (11,300 tonnes) as well as CSB purchased locally (Famix) is currently being distributed.
- (e) The total number of EOS/CSI beneficiaries for the August food allocation is 382,890 in five regions (SNNPR, Ahmara, Oromyia, Tigray, Somali). The figure includes an additional 59,400 beneficiaries in SNNPR, following the results of recent nutritional screening. A total of 10,705 tonnes of commodities (corn-soya blend and oil) are currently being dispatched.

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- (f) The implementation status of the Productive Safety Net Programme (PSNP) as of 30 July has improved. The flow of resources to the beneficiaries has improved significantly in comparison with the first half of the year. For July-September, 67 percent, 75 percent, 97 percent and 100 percent (cereal) of the food requirement has already been dispatched to Amhara, Oromiya, SNNPR and Tigray regions respectively. This represents a total of about 50,170 tons of commodities. The allocation includes pre-positioning in areas that are inaccessible during the rainy season and woredas that shifted from cash to food.
- (g) After the first and second tranches of cash transfers of April and May, the third cash transfer for three months (June-August) to the PSNP regions (Amhara, Oromiya, SNNPR, Tigray and Harari), amounted to more than USD 34 million, according to information provided by the federal Food Security Coordination Bureau (FSCB).
- (h) The Natural Resources Sector of the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development (MoARD) established a technical task force, composed by the federal FSCB and international organisations involved in the implementation of natural resources management. The task force will organize training in Community-Based Public Works and Watershed Planning for the PSNP from 22 August until the end of October. The main objectives of the training will be to assist the PSNP beneficiaries prepare realistic community plans that will contribute towards the achievement of food security and to equip development agents with techniques and approaches in Public Works planning, with particular emphasis on watershed management. The training will cover all of the 192 safety net Woredas (and involve 576 woreda agricultural experts who will then train development agents in their respective woredas). Preparations are underway to develop training modules and assign trainers.
- (i) Regarding refugees, a nutrition survey carried out from 19 to 22 July 2005 in Shimelba camp (Tigray Region) hosting Eritrean refugees indicates that the Global Acute Malnutrition (GAM) rate (WFH <-2 Zscore) is 16.4 percent while the Severe Acute Malnutrition (SAM) rate (WFH <-3 Z score) is 1.1 percent. While these rates are lower than findings from 2004 surveys, they remain a matter of concern as refugees in this camp normally receive around 2,100 kcal per person per day. In view of this, WFP and partners plan to undertake an in-depth study of the socioeconomic environment and cultural practices of the Eritrean refugees with a particular focus on the Kunama community where the highest malnutrition rates are recorded. In the meantime, the relaxed admission criterion to the supplementary feeding centre introduced earlier will be maintained until the high malnutrition rates decrease to levels that are more acceptable.
- (j) Another nutrition survey that was carried out in Dimma camp, hosting Sudanese refugees, between 16 and 31 July, indicates a GAM rate of 9.8 percent and a SAM rate of 0.3 percent. Compared to results from recent nutrition surveys in other refugee camps, these rates are considered satisfactory.

(6) Rwanda

- (a) Sensitization of local authorities on the forthcoming refugee verification exercise started. The verification will take place in two Congolese refugee camps in Byumba and Kibuye between 16 - 21 August.
- (b) During the past week, the number of asylum seekers from DR Congo to Nkamira transit camp decreased from last week's 106 to 54. Some 1,115 asylum seekers are currently sheltered in the camp waiting for transfer. Since no refugees can be transferred to Ngarama due to lack of space, its refugee population remained at 4,740. There was no movement in Gihembe or Kiziba camps and the refugee population is 20,575 and 18,340 respectively. Currently Rwanda shelters 44,770 Congolese refugees.

- (c) The voluntary repatriation of Burundian refugees continued in parallel with new arrivals. Some 585 refugees from Gikonko went back to Burundi while 115 refugees entered Nyamure and Gikonko camps. Burundian refugee population now stands at 4,260 in Nyamure and 1,165 in Gikonko. Kigeme remained stable with 1,215 refugees. The number of Burundian refugees in Rwanda stands at 6,640.
- (d) The WFP provided monthly food distribution was completed in Gihembe camp. About 340 tons were distributed to 20,575 refugees. No distribution took place in the rest of the camps.
- (e) Some 140 returnees crossed Gisenyi and Cyangugu borders from DR Congo. A one-month returnee package amounting to 3 tons of food was provided to 94 returnees in Nkamira camp.

(7) Somalia

- (a) The Special Representative of the UN Secretary General (SRGS) to Somalia, Francois Lonseny Fall, had concluded a meeting in the town of Jowhar with President Abdillahi, Prime Minister Gedi and other senior Somali officials, who pledged to work with the UN to overcome the dispute between members of Somali Government over the government's relocation and the deployment of foreign peacekeepers that delayed the establishment of central authority in the country.
- (b) Hijackers are still holding the m.v. Semlow, loaded with relief rice for the tsunami victims in Somalia, which was hijacked on 27 June. In an effort to secure the release of the vessel, WFP accompanied by three ambassadors of Kenya, Tanzania and Sri Lanka (countries where all the hostages are from), travelled to the town of Jowhar, Somalia and met with the President and Prime Minister of Somalia's Transitional Federal Government.

(8) Sudan

- (a) The Sudanese Vice President, John Garang, died in a helicopter crash on his way to Southern Sudan from Kampala on 30 July. The incident has raised concerns about the future of the comprehensive peace agreement signed in January 2005 between the Sudan Peoples Liberation Movement/Army (SPLM/A) and the Sudanese government, which effectively ended 20 years of civil conflict war. Possible impact on the internally displaced persons (IDPs)/refugee's situation is also being closely monitored.
- (b) DARFUR:
- (c) This week saw continued banditry, targeting humanitarian and commercial vehicles. Most transporters are aware of the increased and continuous risk involved when transporting commodities to Darfur. As a positive development, restrictions to UN movement on the road from Nyala to Menawashi were lifted on 28 July, as fighting around Shangil Torbay, North Darfur, has ceased.
- (d) Aid agencies working in South Darfur have officially opposed a recent relocation of some 2,000 new arrivals from Al Serief Camp to Al Salam camp due to inadequate conditions in the camp. This occurred while discussions between the Government of Sudan (GoS) and the humanitarian community on the appropriateness of Al Salam camp were ongoing.
- (e) WFP dispatched a total of over 48,065 tons of commodities to the Darfurs in July, a slight decrease (4 percent) over dispatches in June. Heavy rains affected dispatches during the month, although a general reduction in rains allowed WFP to accelerate dispatches during the last two weeks of July. The road from El Obeid to Nyala, South Darfur, remains difficult and most transporters continue to re-route dispatches to South Darfur via El Fasher, North Darfur.

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- (f) Over 6,345 tons of the food commodities were delivered into Darfur via airlifts and airdrops in July, representing a 14 percent decrease from air deliveries in June. Airlifts from Al Khufra, Libya are included in this figure. Cargo deliveries from both Khartoum and El Obeid were severely hampered by shortages of jet fuel during the month. However, the arrival of a new jet fuel shipment in Port Sudan is expected to increase jet fuel supply in El Obeid for air deliveries in August.
 - (g) Following disruptions on 16 July in Mornie camp, West Darfur, Government of Sudan (GoS) police and African Union officers assisted tribal leaders with the registration process to quickly identify those without ration cards. Food distributions started on 27 July and will continue through next week. A field security officer will remain in Mornie until the food distribution is completed.
 - (h) Save the Children US (SC-US) distributed some 375 tons of food to beneficiaries in Mornie, Romalia, Umshalia and Hajer Tama in West Darfur during the week. In Habilah, distributions to 50,610 beneficiaries in Furbaranga and Gemeiza are ongoing, although roads to these areas are deteriorating due to the rains. Catholic Relief Services (CRS) and Sudanese Red Crescent (SRC) also completed food distributions in Kulbus and Umtajok respectively.
 - (i) WFP participated in a joint assessment in Buram, South Darfur on 27 July, following an appeal from Humanitarian Aid Commission (HAC) to assist 1,551 flood-affected households as well as an additional 44,000 individuals across Buram locality. Preliminary findings indicate that scarcity of food supplies in the market has increased prices. In addition, household level food stocks from last year's harvest are non-existent. WFP recommended a three-month food distribution intervention to the affected population.
 - (j) During the week, the Sudan Liberation Army (SLA) in North Darfur reported that national NGOs and agencies linked to the Government are not welcome in areas under their control. In Zam Zam camp, access has been denied to the Sudanese Red Crescent (SRC) following threats by the SLA on 11 July. One SRC vehicle was also detained. A WFP mobile team was deployed to complete distributions to 31,207 beneficiaries in Zam Zam camp while discussions continue between OCHA and the SLA on the Sudanese Red Crescent's renewed access to the camp. It should be noted that the humanitarian community in El Fasher is dealing with immediate humanitarian needs in this camp in the absence of key national organizations. All non-essential activities have ceased and only activities dealing with food, water and health are being conducted with the assistance of additional WFP, UNICEF and international NGO staff.
 - (k) WFP borrowed USD 68 million from available internal funding mechanisms to overcome critical food pipeline breaks under the Darfur emergency operation. Procurement of commodities began in March/April and, as a result, pipeline breaks of 42,110 tons of food between July and December 2005 have been prevented.
 - (l) As of 28 July, the emergency operation still faces a USD 161 million shortfall (29 percent) out of a total value of USD 562 million. Cash contributions are urgently needed to overcome this shortfall, which includes outstanding internal cash loans, representing USD 33.5 million at full cost recovery and 12,647 tons borrowed from other operations in Sudan.
 - (m) The Special Operation for logistics support in Darfur continues to face a shortfall of USD 23 million. The procurement of additional long-haul trucks is on hold until funds are made available.
 - (n) WFP-Humanitarian Air Services (HAS) still faces severe funding shortfalls, which have led to the cancellation of non-food item deliveries in June, despite the start of the rainy season, when demand for air deliveries increases. WFP is also unable at this stage to activate the fourth helicopter in Darfur. The funding shortfall remains critical at USD 15

million out of total requirements of USD 24 million in 2005. To ensure continued air services through the rainy season in Sudan, the operation urgently requires an initial USD 5 million.

(9) Tanzania

- (a) WFP food distribution continues to reach 397,475 refugees. During the past week, WFP has discontinued general assistance to host community beneficiaries until the pipeline situation improves. However, WFP continued to reach the most vulnerable refugees and host community beneficiaries through hospital in feeding, supplementary and therapeutic feeding programmes.
- (b) The protracted relief and recovery operation for refugees in Tanzania continues to face serious pipeline problems. In the current distribution cycle (4 - 31 July), refugees have to cope with reduced rations, providing just 1,348 Kcal, which is 64 percent of the standard 2,100 Kcal level recommended by the 2004 refugee Joint Assessment Mission in Tanzania. Ration levels of between 1,252 - 1,437 Kcal are forecast until August 2005. On 15 August, full cereal rations will resume.
- (c) WFP and its partners in Tanzania plan to undertake a nutritional survey of refugees in August. The survey will provide more data on the nutritional status of refugees following almost one year of reduced food rations.
- (d) A new was confirmed for USD 8.4 million. While the new contribution helps WFP's position until the end of 2005, the pipeline is not covered for the next 6 months and WFP continues to appeal to donors for urgent assistance to avoid future pipeline breaks.

(10) Uganda

- (a) Four of Uganda's main foreign donors have issued an unprecedented direct appeal to the rebel Lord's Resistance Army (LRA) to contact urgently the mediator of stalled peace talks, officials said on 4 August. In a radio message being broadcasted throughout conflict-affected northern Uganda 18 times a day, the United States, Britain, the Netherlands and Norway are asking LRA leaders to contact the chief peace mediator, Ms. Betty Bigombe. The broadcast also announces the creation of a special radio monitoring post at which the rebels can pass a message to Ms. Bigombe to re-establish contact with her.
- (b) A national referendum on the change of the political system in Uganda was held on 28 July. A majority (92.5%) voted in favour of allowing the return of multi-party politics.
- (c) Damage from a fierce storm has left some 5,000 war-displaced people with minimal shelter and destroyed food supplies at a camp in northern Uganda, UN and local officials said Friday. The storm hit Parabongo IDP camp in Gulu district on 28 July, blowing away the roofs of up to 1,000 huts, destroying household items and food stocks. WFP, together with partners, are conducting an assessment to verify the number of families in need of immediate assistance.
- (d) Following an outbreak of dysentery among nationals displaced in Maasa village in Adjumani district, WFP will provide a one-off food assistance to the affected population. District authorities and NGO partners conducted a rapid assessment and attributed the outbreak to congestion and poor sanitation. Some 4,200 nationals are currently displaced in Maasa following LRA attacks that begun in April 2005. District authorities and agencies are making relevant interventions to contain the situation. WFP is installing a water tank at Maasa Primary school.
- (e) WFP, together with sister UN agencies, district authorities and NGO partners participated in the Consolidated Appeal Process 2006 workshop in Lira on 25-26 July;

members agreed on the way forward for preparation of the CAP 2006 document.

- (f) WFP food distribution continues to reach 1.4 million displaced persons, 192,000 refugees and other vulnerable persons. During the past week, WFP distributed 3,720 tons of relief food assistance to 334,475 persons, including IDPs sheltering in camps in Gulu, Kitgum, Pader and Lira districts, refugees, children in nutrition centres and other vulnerable persons.
- (g) WFP faces a shortfall of over 26,920 tons of food commodities with a funding gap of USD 13 million, required to maintain the food pipeline necessary to continue providing relief assistance to IDPs and refugees through December. Unless new contributions are confirmed urgently, the nutritional status of 1.4 million internally displaced persons in northern Uganda, mostly women and children, will be jeopardized.

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

(1) Benin

- (a) The situation of arrivals of Togolese refugees in Benin is stabilizing. Most refugees now register in Cotonou, and are likely to be refugees coming from host families and seeking to join Agamé and Comé camps. A consultative group has been set up to examine the relocation of the Comé camp. An urgent decision is needed, as no temporary infrastructure can be built if the camp is to move again.
- (b) Malnutrition is increasing, but no accurate data are available to clarify the exact levels and extent.
- (c) The NGO Terre des Hommes has expressed concern about the attraction of schools in camps: many children indeed prefer to stay in the camps in September, when no school fees are paid, rather than going back to Togo.
- (d) The NGO Caritas is assessing refugees in host communities along the Togo-Benin border. The INSAE/government of Benin census is still under preparation and resources have not yet been secured. Findings from this census are critical to allow WFP to target a realistic number of refugees in need of assistance. So far, refugees outside the camps have not benefited from food aid, mainly due to lack of resources and also to absence of proper information about the number and location of refugees.
- (e) WFP food distribution took place in Agamé. The current food basket contains maize, oil and beans. The next distributions will also include corn-soya blend.
- (f) WFP, Catholic Relief Services and the Red Cross will examine the possibility to improve the food ration to support people living with HIV/AIDS. These people are under ARV treatment in 2 medical centres, but need an improved diet to complement the effect of their treatment.

(2) Burkina Faso

- (a) Although the situation in Burkina Faso is not as severe as in Niger, Mali and Mauritania, some 500,000 people were affected by crop losses in 2004. WFP has been stepping up its assistance for vulnerable groups through feeding centres. Those areas which have been assessed as food insecure will require heightened vigilance. Donor support is critical to enable WFP to continue vulnerable group feeding and to prevent an increase in malnutrition.

(3) Chad

- (a) The overall security situation is fairly calm in the refugee camps as well as along border. Some concerns were raised over the consequences of Sudan's First

Vice-President John Garang's death and possible demonstrations among the refugee population in the camps. Slight sabotage was brought to WFP Aircraft in Abéché by unknown individuals. The matter is still under investigation and the aircraft has been repaired and is now operational.

- (b) The rainy season is posing enormous threats to the movement of WFP food and vehicles due to swollen river beds (wadis). Accessibility to refugee camps remains somewhat difficult, particularly in southern areas (Goz Beida) where camps are accessible only by plane. Central areas (Farchana, Adre) are accessible most of the time, except during rainfalls for light vehicles. Northern areas (Guereda, Iriba, Bahaï) remain accessible.
- (c) An outbreak of Hepatitis E in Kerfi chiefdom (some 40 km south east of Goz Beida) has reportedly killed at least 36 people according to local authorities in Abéché. The area has a total of 35 villages with a population of over 15,000 people and is in proximity of the south-eastern refugee camps. Due to logistical constraints because of the rainy season, UNICEF, WHO and the Governor have appealed for assistance in airlifting most urgently needed health, water and sanitation supplies to Goz Beida. WFP's Humanitarian Air Services plane airlifted around 150 kg of medical supplies to Goz Beida. Animal transport (horses and camels) will be used to transport the items to the affected area.
- (d) The nutritional situation is stable in all camps. Malnutrition has decreased in Touloum and Iridimi camps (around 12.5 percent global acute Malnutrition (GAM) as compared to 16 percent GAM in May-June). Blanket Supplementary Feeding (BSF) will stop in all camps except in Djabal, where malnutrition levels and admissions in supplementary feeding centres remain relatively high. A nutritional survey is set to commence in late August / early September to determine whether or not BSF should continue in the camp.
- (e) The target caseload for the next distributions as agreed by WFP and UNHCR totals 198,500 refugees. The slight increase is explained by the latest UNHCR regularisations by registration committees. The second phase of the registration exercise (personal data collection and photos) is expected to start during the current week in Mile and Kounoungou.
- (f) WFP commenced general food distributions for the month of August in southern and central camps and expects to cover northern camps around mid-August. Under the Blanket Supplementary Feeding programme, WFP supplied some 38 tons of food to a total of 8,500 refugees in Touloum, Iridimi and Djabal. August distributions will proceed in northern camps around the 15th of the month.
- (g) WFP food-for-work activities, assisting the local population, are ongoing in northern and central areas. In Farchana, at least 15,000 plants were distributed during the second half of July as part of an environmental protection project. WFP seed protection distributions are also underway. Some 32 tons of sorghum were distributed together with seeds to the local population in Touloum and some 37 tons to beneficiaries in Amnabak.

(4) Cote d'Ivoire

- (a) An increase in malnutrition has been noted in children from villages around Bangolo, south of Man. Although it is the lean season, the rate of malnutrition is also high when compared with figures from this same period last year.
- (b) From 21-27 July, approximately 600 tons of various food commodities were distributed to over 40,000 beneficiaries in Cote d'Ivoire.
- (c) Lean season distributions are ongoing in vulnerable areas in the north and west of the

country. These general distributions are intended to help stave off short term hunger in this period before the harvest when food stocks are exhausted.

- (d) A new contribution was confirmed this week for about USD 2.4 million, which will be used to purchase 3,300 tons of food. Assuming that the situation in Cote d'Ivoire remains stable, no major pipeline breaks are anticipated before the end of the year, although further contributions should be confirmed now to avoid pipeline breaks in early 2006. On average, due to the time needed for procurement, shipping, customs clearance and internal transport, there is a delay of 5-6 months between the time a contribution is confirmed and the time the food is in the sub-offices ready for distributions. Therefore, in order to ensure a healthy pipeline in early 2006, the immediate confirmation of new contributions is critical.

(5) Guinea

- (a) Guinean refugee camps now host approximately 63,000 individuals who are currently being assisted by WFP; 3,305 are from Cote d'Ivoire and the remainder from Liberia. From 11-24 July, some 1,345 Liberian refugees were voluntarily repatriated. Since the beginning of the repatriation campaign in November 2004, over 14,500 Liberians have returned home
- (b) The offer of double rations to encourage Liberian refugees to register for voluntary repatriation remains operative in the Kissidougou camps. There, from 11 to 24 July, 280 refugees received double rations prior to their repatriation.
- (c) WFP provided 460 tons of food to 31,240 refugees during the last monthly general food distribution at Kountaya, Kouankan and Kola camps.
- (d) On 18 July, a mission to identify new schools to join WFP's protracted relief and recovery operation for the coming school year began its work. Under this programme, an expansion is previewed to include an additional 31,000 students, who will receive hot meals in school. WFP in Guinea continues to face food shortages for the coming months; immediately needed food amounts to about 600 tons.

(6) Liberia

- (a) From 24 to 30 July, over 60,400 beneficiaries in Liberia received 535 tons of food. In particular, WFP distributed some 29 tons of assorted food commodities to 3,230 IDPs through general food distribution and over 360 tons of commodities to 11,240 IDPs and refugees.
- (b) During the same period, some 39,465 school children (22,565 boys, 16,900 girls) received 38.5 tons of WFP food assistance in Bong county and a total of 84.6 tons of WFP assorted food commodities was delivered to 3,555 project participants through the Food Support for Local Initiatives (FSLI) in Cape Mount, Bomi, Nimba, and Lofa counties.
- (c) During the same period, some 1,525 returnees from Guinea, Ghana, Cote d'Ivoire, and Sierra Leone, disembarked in, Cape Mount, Lofa, Grand Gedeh, Maryland, and Montserrado counties. WFP distributed about 51 tons of assorted relief food commodities as a first tranche ration to the resettled returnees.
- (d) Distribution of the second tranche two-months food ration to returnees and IDPs, which completes the four-months resettlement food package, continued in Montserrado, Bong, Bomi, Capemount, Gbarpolu, Grand Gedeh and Lofa counties. A total of 1,250 beneficiaries received 42 tons of assorted relief food commodities.
- (e) In Margibi and Montserrado counties, a therapeutic centre received 2.5 tons of food to benefit 200 beneficiaries. In addition, in Nimba county, two hospitals received 2.8 tons of WFP food commodities, for a total beneficiary population of 274.

- (f) WFP's pipeline for Liberia will be healthy until December 2005. A new contribution of 1,500 tons of lentils, 4,343 tons of bulgur wheat, 487 tons of MML, 1,000 tons of corn-soya blend, 300 tons of salt and 150 tons of sugar has been confirmed. However, WFP is still facing a break in pulses.

(7) Mali

- (a) Like Niger, Mali began facing a food deficit problems in the northern part of the country during the last quarter of 2004, as a result of drought and locust infestation which reduced agricultural production significantly. Now, at the height of the lean season, the availability of food has been further reduced, causing people to sell off their animals and other assets on a large scale, as well as to go in for unusual migration. The cost of millet in Gao is almost double the 2004 price and this increase is hampering people's access to staple food.
- (b) A recent nutritional survey conducted in the affected areas by the Malian Government and WFP indicate acute malnutrition rates of up to 16 percent in Gao and Kayes. The worst-hit provinces are Gao (Bourem) on the Niger river, Kidal in the remote Adrar des Iforras hills of the northeast and in the regions of Kayes (Nioro) and Koulikoro (Nara) near the border with Mauritania. This serious situation warrants an immediate response and WFP is now reorienting its programmes in Mali to address the most urgent needs; WFP will add a component of supplementary feeding for children. These distributions will be delivered through the health centers.
- (c) WFP has already been distributing food in the worst affected parts of northern Mali, having borrowed from its own reserves to buy and position food in the critical areas. Now the agency's supply line is in jeopardy, unless fresh contributions are forthcoming.

(8) Mauritania

- (a) In Mauritania, up to 600,000 people were affected by locust infestations and to a lesser extent by drought. As donors have responded positively to WFP's appeal, most of its plans could be fulfilled; WFP distributions have prevented a food crisis and a worsening of the situation among the most vulnerable households.
- (b) Nevertheless, extreme care must be taken to ensure that no food gaps undermine the achievements made so far. In the easternmost region of the country, bordering Mali, which is not covered by WFP's current relief operation, food shortages have become serious with high levels of malnutrition reported. WFP plans to expand its current programme to address the immediate needs identified in recent assessments.

(9) Niger

- (a) In response to the deteriorating situation in Niger, WFP has expanded its emergency operation in the country to reach 2.5 million beneficiaries at a cost of USD 57.6 million.
- (b) WFP is now providing general food rations to all people in the five affected zones in August and September, based on the government's assessment. Previously, WFP had been delivering assistance through feeding centres for malnourished children. In addition to these general distributions, some 480,000 children under five and pregnant and nursing women will receive a supplementary food ration. As a further safety net, a contingency ration for 30 percent of the targeted population will also be provided for a period of three months after the harvest, subject to findings of the planned Crop and Food Supply Assessment mission and supporting WFP Vulnerability Assessment Mapping surveys.
- (c) The operation is 36 percent funded, having received USD 20.6 million in contributions. The current shortfall is USD 37 million and a further 58,940 tons are needed. The

urgent provision of food is crucial; if assistance is not provided quickly, WFP expects to see a massive liquidation of property and livestock with a severe impact on the current agricultural season and thus the long-term well-being of the population, with loss of life among the most vulnerable groups.

- (d) A recent outpouring of donor support has enabled purchases of various commodities in the region; some are now being discharged and/or are in transit to Niger. In an effort to move food quickly, WFP has organised several loans from other WFP programmes in the region. The agency is in the process of rerouting vessels to discharge commodities, and has made a fourth allocation of USD 10 million from emergency funding to buy cereals, which are now available in the Port of Lome.
- (e) Despite these efforts, shortages of almost all commodities are expected in the next five months. To avert such shortfalls during August, WFP is speeding up the discharge and delivery of Niger-bound WFP commodities in and/or approaching ports in the region. Additional donor support will avoid these immediate and future shortfalls.

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

(1) Angola

- (a) According to the Angolan Consulate in Matadi (Democratic Republic of the Congo) and local authorities, approximately 100,000 refugees have expressed their intention to return to Angola. UNHCR is proceeding with registration activities of the voluntary repatriation exercise, which is due to end this year. UNHCR estimates roughly 55,000 Angolans will return in 2005 under the organized exercise, while an unknown number will return independently. WFP continues to provide support to the repatriation exercise.
- (b) During July 2005, WFP and cooperating partners distributed 9,000 tons of food to approximately 740,000 people throughout the country. Nearly 51 percent of the beneficiaries were targeted through general food distributions – mainly internal and external returnees, refugees and other vulnerable beneficiaries. An additional 24 percent of food recipients are engaged in food-for-work and food-for-assets programmes and another 25 percent receive assistance through school-feeding projects.
- (c) In July, the road from the town of Menongue to Cuito Cuanavale Municipality (Kuangobango Province) was opened to UN agencies, following demining activities undertaken by Halo Trust. The road was closed in March 2004 following a mine incident. With the reopening, WFP has gained access to approximately 6,000 people, predominantly returnees. The reopening of the road will also enable WFP to monitor the area and assess food needs of the population. Halo Trust is currently demining the road from Menongue to Bie Province, an area where many returnees have chosen to settle.
- (d) The Angola protracted relief and recovery operation (PRRO), Support to Return and Resettlement, continues to be severely under funded. Urgent contributions are required to avoid ongoing commodity disruptions in September and October. From November onwards, major shortfalls will take place in all commodities. The PRRO requires USD12 million, or 17,500 tons of food through the end of 2005. Without immediate new contributions, WFP will have to introduce additional distribution cuts in all rations.

(2) Lesotho

- (a) According to the Lesotho Vulnerability Assessment Committee and FAO/WFP Crop and Food Supply Assessment Mission findings, households in the Southern Lowlands and Senqu River Valley have shown clear patterns of chronic vulnerability and predictable hunger. WFP, in partnership with the government and cooperating partners, is planning

to undertake a retargeting exercise in order to identify and assist the most vulnerable households.

- (b) During 27 July to 2 August, WFP and collaborating partners distributed food to approximately 10,300 people enrolled in mother and child health care, patients in HIV/AIDS and tuberculosis clinics and home care programmes, as well as to school-feeding and food-for-work participants.

(3) Madagascar

- (a) In July 2005, the average market price of rice increased from MGA710 (USD0.37) to MGA900 (USD0.46) per kilo. In May, rice prices were approximately MGA700. An increase in the price of imported and domestic rice occurs as commodities become scarce on the local market. Some wholesalers are withholding commodities in expectation of increased market prices during the lean season. It is anticipated that there will be a 200,000 ton production deficit of domestic rice that will need to be covered by imports. Currently farmers are building up their contingency stocks in anticipation of severe shortages of rice, comparable to those experienced in 2004.

(4) Malawi

- (a) According to the Director of Meteorological Services in Malawi, the 2004/05 maize harvest is the lowest since 1992 with a production of about 1.3 million tons, representing 37 percent of the country's needs. The national Vulnerability Assessment Committee estimates between 4.2 million people will not have enough food during the coming year. This figure will increase to 4.6 million, should maize prices increase. Food assistance is estimated at 270,000 to 415,000 tons respectively. The country's central and densely populated southern regions are currently the most critically affected. At the end of July, the government placed a ban on maize and fertilizer exports as part of a series of emergency measures to combat the threat of famine and has launched a "Feed the Nation" campaign in order to collect donations.
- (b) From 27 July to 3 August, WFP dispatched approximately 1,800 tons of food through cooperating partners.

(5) Mozambique

- (a) The scarcity of rainfall continues to have an effect on the southern provinces of the country. In Maputo Province, food security has deteriorated drastically and the number of food insecure households continues to rise. Many families have lost their livestock due to the lack of water and pasture. In Inhambane Province, farmers have prepared their fields and are waiting for rain to begin sowing. In the most affected provinces, people are now relying on cassava and wild vegetation.
- (b) Due to insufficient stocks in WFP's pipeline, cooperating partners are not receiving adequate stocks to complete distributions. Food-for-work and vulnerable group feeding activities remain critically affected.

(6) Namibia

- (a) WFP and UNHCR will conduct a beneficiary verification exercise during 16 and 17 August in Osire refugee camp. Current figures indicate the number of refugees residing in the camp is approximately 6,500.

(7) Zambia

- (a) During a recent field trip to Zambezi and Chavuma, WFP staff reported that many households have run out of food, especially on the west bank of the Zambezi River.

Many households are now limited to one meal a day and people are relying heavily on wild fruit and vegetation for sustenance. The situation, aggravated by pipeline breaks, is rapidly deteriorating and is expected to worsen in the coming months. While urban areas continue to enjoy relatively stable prices for food, the food security situation in rural areas remains precarious. The government's Disaster Management and Mitigation Unit (DMMU) has developed a Cabinet Memorandum requesting emergency funds to support 1.2 million people until February 2006. A response is expected from the government by the end of August.

- (b) During July, WFP provided food assistance to approximately 84,000 people out of 94,000 in five refugee camps and settlements. The voluntary repatriation of Angolan refugees is ongoing, although at a much slower pace than originally anticipated. Since the recommencement of the return exercise in May 2005, only 6,500 Angolans have been repatriated. UNHCR has altered the refugee return figures from an initial 34,500 to approximately 16,000 people. Consequently, WFP has revised beneficiary planning figures accordingly. WFP continues to facilitate the repatriation exercise by providing hot meals at departure/transit centres as well as providing dry food packs (Humanitarian Daily Rations) during refugee's travel time.
- (c) Critical food shortfalls for the current regional protracted relief and recovery operation (PRRO) in Zambia are foreseen at the end of August. Currently there is no vegetable oil in stock with limited amounts of cereals and HEPS. Although recent contributions have been received, these are unlikely to arrive before the end of 2005. Cash contributions are urgently required to provide food for September's beneficiary distributions.

(8) Zimbabwe

- (a) Government authorities have officially closed transit camps in urban areas, removing remaining people to rural areas, nearby farms, alternative holding centres, Social Welfare centres and homes for the elderly, the latter being for destitute children and adults. WFP has provided 1,400 tons of food to an estimated 65,000 people affected by the government's "clean-up operations", working primarily through the International Organization for Migration (IOM). There have been some reports of strain on the rural communities with the influx of the displaced.
- (b) The limited availability of maize in the provinces of Matabeleland, Manicaland and Mashonaland continue to be observed. In Bulawayo Urban, the price of maize on the parallel market remains constant in local currency at ZW\$3.425 per kilo, although the ZW\$ decreased to USD0.20 per kilo after a currency devaluation of 95 percent (from USD0.38). Informal vendors in Mashonaland Provinces are reported to be returning sporadically and in small numbers in urban centres, although monitored and vacated by police periodically. In Manicaland, limited Grain Marketing Board (GMB) maize grain deliveries in districts have not been able to be undertaken due to the ongoing shortage of fuel.
- (c) Long queues are observed at numerous locations throughout the country for the purchase of basic and scarce commodities such as maize meal, cooking oil and sugar, with maize meal selling on the open market for as much as ZW\$5,600 (USD0.32) per kilo in Manicaland. Long queues for fuel at petrol stations continue to be observed, with the parallel market for fuel selling as high as ZW\$60,000 (USD3.42) per litre.
- (d) On 3 August, WFP received a letter from the Ministry of Health and Child Welfare, permitting the use of South African corn-soya-blend (CSB) stocks through ongoing targeted programmes. School Feeding and Child Supplementary Feeding programmes had largely been suspended since mid-May following problems with some stocks. As schools are currently on term break, school feeding will resume when schools reopen in September.

- (e) Home Based Care and Orphan and Other Vulnerable Children programmes continue in three districts and one urban area, although fuel shortages have presented challenges in the smooth implementation of the July distribution cycle.

(F) Asia: (1) Bangladesh (2) Korea (DPR) (3) Myanmar

(1) Bangladesh

- (a) The overall flood situation remains fairly normal and within the capacity of the Government and other local relief agencies to respond. As is usual, the situation has caused a significant increase in the price of cash crops, fruit and vegetables (mainly rice and wheat flour). WFP is expecting to receive over 3,765 tons of wheat from the Government of Bangladesh stocks for distribution among 125,565 households, participating in flood recovery activities in the northern part of Bangladesh.
- (b) Daily over 600,000 primary school students continue to receive high energy biscuits as part of WFP's emergency operation (EMOP) in the country. Food-for-work/Food-for-asset (FFW/FFA) is on going in four districts, through various micro-level livelihood activities.
- (c) Also as part of the EMOP, from 27 July until 3 August, around 6,060 households have received 30 kg of rice.

(2) Korea (DPR)

- (a) The ongoing rainy season continues to cause problems around the country. In addition to the flooding in Pukchang, Tokchong and Maengan counties at the end of June, WFP received reports of flooding in Unsan county (South Pyongan Province) this week. The extent of the damage is yet to be confirmed and WFP has not received any requests for Emergency Food Assistance.
- (b) With the arrival in August of cereals purchased from WFP's Immediate Response Account, WFP will be able to provide cereal rations to all beneficiaries of its emergency operation (EMOP), with the exception of 900,000 poor urban households and elderly people. However, without new donations, beneficiary numbers will drop again in October when only 4.1 million out of the targeted 6.5 million will receive cereals. In November and December, WFP will only be able to assist 50 percent of our beneficiaries with cereals.
- (c) The shortfall of oil, which began in March, is still severe and in August and September up to 2.7 million elderly people, pregnant/nursing women, and children in nurseries, kindergarten and hospitals will go without this valuable commodity. WFP has also been forced to cut distributions of pulses completely to all the EMOP's beneficiary groups in August and September.

(3) Myanmar

- (a) WFP's Executive Director, James Morris, during his four day mission to Myanmar, visited WFP hunger alleviation projects in central Magway Division and had meetings with Prime Minister Soe Win, representatives of the opposition National League for Democracy and leaders of minority ethnic groups.
- (b) Mr. Morris, during his visit, urged the Myanmar government to review and reform policies that impede humanitarian efforts to combat growing hunger and poverty. He called for a significant relaxation of controls on the procurement and distribution of food commodities, including aid, and on access to them for the most vulnerable, not least in hard-hit, ethnic minority border areas. Morris also called for improvements in operating conditions for aid agencies, noting that bureaucratic, fiscal and other constraints

hamper the timely local purchase and distribution of urgently needed food assistance, and the free movement of humanitarian workers.

- (c) WFP still needs to raise 40 per cent of the projected USD 12 million cost of its two-year programme to support returnees and other vulnerable groups in North Rakhine State and Magway. Furthermore, just 20 per cent of the USD 8 million required for a 12-month operation to feed former opium poppy growers and their families in northeastern Shan State has been secured. Additional contributions are urgently required.

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

(1) Regional

- (a) According to scientists at the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's (NOAA) Climate Prediction Center (CPC), Hurricane Research Division (HRD), and National Hurricane Center (NHC), an extremely active hurricane season is foreseen, with an expected seasonal total of 18-21 tropical storms, with 9-11 becoming hurricanes, and 5-7 of these becoming major hurricanes.
- (b) The predicted seasonal totals include the considerable activity that has already occurred prior to this update (7 tropical storms and 2 major hurricanes). Therefore, for the remainder of the season, we expect an additional 11-14 tropical storms, with 7-9 becoming hurricanes, and 3-5 of these becoming major hurricanes. These very high levels of activity are comparable to those seen during August-November 2003 and 2004. Given the forecast that the remainder of the season will be very active, it is imperative that hurricane preparedness plans are in place at all levels.

(2) Bolivia

- (a) Bolivia's Finance Minister resigned on Monday over remarks done in the US about alleged financial ties between coca leader and presidential candidate Evo Morales with the presidents of Cuba and Venezuela.
- (b) The city of Camiri, located in the Department of Santa Cruz, leads a strike in demand of the re-foundation of the state owned oil company YPFB. At least three road blockades stopped some 200 trucks on their way from Argentina to Santa Cruz and vice versa. As national authorities did not take any action regarding their demands, protesters announced a general strike starting on 3 August. They also threatened with the occupation of gas camps and the closing of valves. The strike may spread out to other cities, such as Yacuiba and Villamontes. At the national level, the health sector announced another three-day strike for the following days.
- (c) Since the Municipality of Camiri –currently blocked by protesters- is in the centre of the intervention area of WFP's emergency operation (EMOP), final distributions of 300 tons of food to the municipalities of Gutierrez, Cuevo, Camiri and Boyuibe had to be re-programmed. Wherever possible, implementing partners have been delivering food, taking alternative roads.

(3) Colombia

- (a) The situation remains tense and volatile in the Province of Putumayo. According to military sources, a major illegal armed group (with strong presence in this region) has caused the interruption of almost all activities in this southern province. Rebels have cut off electricity and have blockade main roads. A major Colombian newspaper has said that civil population is terrified and the transport companies refuse to operate as the illegal armed groups have promised to burn any buses or trucks that move across this

province.

- (b) The Governor of the province said that some 3,500 people had been forced to flee due to the clashes between the Army and the illegal armed group at different points of the province. Most of these people have temporarily settled in the Municipality of Puerto Asis, although some reports issued by the Ecuadorian Government indicate that an undetermined number of people have crossed the Colombian border with Ecuador. Military sources indicate that the situation is under control and security conditions will be normal soon.
- (c) Due to the situation, the Colombian government was forced to airlift in basic supplies and some 12 tons of emergency food aid. Reportedly, much of the food that arrived by plane would be airlifted by military helicopters to Orito and other Putumayo towns, where food is growing scarce. For now, food shortages have not yet hit Puerto Asis, with a population of about 28,000, though some supermarkets are running short of fresh vegetables. With the municipal water system malfunctioning since the power went out, some residents have been using wells to get their water.
- (d) Currently the province of Putumayo is under UN Security Phase III and all movements for UN staff are restricted in this part of the country. WFP does not have any activities in Putumayo. However, if financial resources are available, WFP will consider expanding its current protracted relief and recovery operation (PRRO) to this province.
- (e) A recent mission led by WFP to the region of Catatumbo (province of Norte de Santander) found out that some 66 families from different remote rural areas of this region were forced to flee due to threats from illegal armed groups. These families are temporarily settled in different municipalities of the province and have not received any humanitarian assistance.
- (f) New displacements have been reported in the Province of Chocó, where at least 60 people (members of indigenous communities) from rural areas of the village of San Juan were forced to flee due to threats from illegal armed groups. These people claim that a major illegal group in their region accused them to be helpers of a rival right wing illegal group. The families are temporarily settled in the Municipality of Rio Sucio, waiting for humanitarian assistance.
- (g) Clashes between the Colombian army and members of illegal armed groups have been reported in nearby rural areas of Quibdó (capital city of the Province of Chocó). According to information issued by the local government, these clashes are causing food blockades for inhabitants of these areas. Due to this reason, WFP could not deliver food supplies that were intended to be distributed to the communities of Winandó and Jitradó, small villages located in the middle of the clashing area. WFP will deliver these food supplies as soon as security conditions in the area are cleared.
- (h) Illegal armed rebels detonated a roadside bomb on 1 August, killing 14 police officers. Outlawed groups are fighting for control of lands around the Sierra Nevada, which is sacred to local Indians. Illegal armed rebels have killed more than 300 members of the security forces this year. WFP develops several food aid activities in this region as part of its PRRO.
- (i) In the context of the new PRRO 10366, Assistance to People Displaced by Violence, WFP distributed last week 170 tons in 8 provinces, reaching to 50,050 beneficiaries in school and preschool feeding activities.

(4) Cuba

- (a) Despite the scattered showers and the rain that Hurricane Dennis brought on its passage through Cuba on 8 July, the ongoing drought situation in the eastern part of the country continues causing damage to food crops and livestock in both, central and

eastern Cuba. In the eastern part of the country, particularly the Provinces of Guantánamo, Granma, Santiago de Cuba, Holguín, Las Tunas and Camagüey, the drought has affected water sources, agriculture and cattle and has made the population extremely vulnerable to food insecurity.

- (b) Shipments for WFP's three-month emergency operation (EMOP) in Cuba are expected to arrive at the end of August. This EMOP will reach 773,000 people by providing assistance to vulnerable groups (pregnant and nursing women, children under five years old and elderly people) affected by the drought, with a complementary food ration of rice, beans and vegetable oil.
- (c) Distributions from WFP's Immediate Response Account were approved on 2 July. This Assistance will reach 110,900 people by providing assistance to vulnerable groups (pregnant women, children under five years old and elderly people) affected by Hurricane Dennis. The total cost of this operation is USD 492,264.
- (d) Food is urgently needed since the situation continues to be critical. The affected population is in need of the complementary food rations to be provided through these emergency operations.

(5) Guatemala

- (a) The "yellow" alert in the whole country continues, as rainfall levels are normal according to the National Institute of Seismology, Vulcanology, Meteorology and Hydrology (INSIVUMEH).
- (b) The Free Trade Agreement (DR-CAFTA) between the United States and the Central American countries and the Dominican Republic was finally approved. It is expected to take effect as of 1 January, 2006. In Guatemala, labour union members and civil organizations carried out a demonstration on 29 July to protest against the expected adverse impact on trade, particularly regarding agricultural activity in the rural areas.
- (c) The Government of Guatemala is currently trying to reach consensus regarding a rural development policy based on the strengthening of human development, by increasing investment on health and education, while reducing investment on infrastructure. No tax reform is envisaged in the short run; however, tax collection improved during the first half of 2005, compared to previous year.
- (d) As part of the Guatemala component of WFP's regional protracted relief and recovery operation (PRRO), a total of 60 tons of maize, beans, corn-soya blend and vegetable oil were distributed to community-based centres in the Province of Chiquimula, Jalapa, Solola and San Marcos. Distributions aim at the nutritional recovery of children under five years old and pregnant and nursing women suffering from acute malnutrition, and will benefit a total of 720 families (3,600 beneficiaries).

(6) Nicaragua

- (a) On the night of 2 August, a tornado occurred in Corinto, where the main warehouse of WFP is located. WFP reported minor damage to the infrastructure, not affecting food storage
- (b) On the morning of 2 August, INETER authorities (Institute for Territorial Studies) reported a tremor of 5.6 Richter and at least 15 tremors with less intensity. The epicentre was reported to be located 100 kms to the southwest of Managua. Nicaraguan authorities also reported a second earthquake of magnitude 4.5 about an hour and a half later. Red Cross and government civil defence officials had no reports of injuries or destruction in Nicaragua.
- (c) Concepción volcano, a volcano situated on the island of Ometepe in Lake Nicaragua, which is popular with adventure tourists, erupted at least four times last 28 July,

- spewing ash that fell some 10 miles away. No one was injured by the eruptions.
- (d) A preliminary WFP mission to the municipality of Waspam in the Northern Atlantic Autonomous Region of Nicaragua confirms the loss of harvest due to rat infestation, pests and flooding along River Coco on the border to Honduras. According to the local authorities, at least 18 communities are facing severe food shortage. A joint mission composed of WFP, WFP partners and local authorities have initiated a rapid assessment of the situation, although access to the area is extremely difficult.
 - (e) Approximately 10,365 pregnant and lactating women; 11,160 children under two years old; 1,790 vulnerable rural families and 62,065 schoolchildren in the Central and Northern Atlantic Region (RAAN) continue to benefit of food distributions under WFP's protracted relief and recovery operation (PRRO). Heavy rains continue, especially in the RAAN and have damaged several roads, making access to some areas even more difficult.
 - (f) If no commodities are announced in the upcoming months or those that are announced arrive late, the PRRO will face serious pipeline breaks. Beneficiary numbers will have to be reduced if the situation prevails.

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

WFP Weekly Emergency Report

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1 [www.wfp.org] <http://www.wfp.org>

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