

World Food Programme Emergency Report 2005
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(A) Highlights

- (a) Despite heavy snowfalls and poor road access, WFP has provided relief food distributions of thousands of families affected by the consequences of Afghanistan's harsh winter.
- (b) With the tsunami-struck countries in Asia moving into the reconstruction phase, WFP is launching post-emergency humanitarian activities in Indonesia, Sri Lanka and Myanmar.
- (c) In February, the number of WFP beneficiaries reached in Sudan's Darfur Region was estimated at 1.35 million.
- (d) Insecurity has been increasingly hampering humanitarian operations in many areas in DR of Congo and southern Sudan.
- (e) WFP launched emergency school feeding activities in conflict devastated Lofa County, Liberia.
- (f) Following the collapse of a railway in Republic of Congo, WFP is facing difficulties in moving food to beneficiaries.
- (g) WFP plans to provide short-term emergency assistance to 280,000 vulnerable people in drought-stricken Swaziland.
- (h) WFP is distributing emergency food rations to families affected by floods in Santa Cruz, Bolivia.

(B) Middle East,Central Asia and Eastern Europe: (1) Afghanistan (2) Iran (3) Iraq

(1) Afghanistan

- (a) The security situation remained relatively calm in most of the country. The continued harsh weather created a need for relief food aid for many affected families. However, heavy snowfall and poor road access are hindering humanitarian operations in the north, centre and south of the country.
- (b) Due to these constraints, the delivery of emergency food to around 14,000 people in different parts of central Uruzgan province was delayed. Over 230 tons of food,

dispatched to Gizab, Chora and Khas Uruzgan districts on 24 February, have reportedly passed Uruzgan's capital Tirinkot, but have still not reached the hands of almost 2,300 families in need.

- (c) WFP and the Provincial Reconstruction Team (PRT) are struggling to supply food assistance to vulnerable communities in winter affected districts of Tulak and Saghar of Ghor province. On 28 February, 12,000 people received a total of nearly 95 tons of greatly needed food assistance in severely affected areas in the Sharak, Kemenj, Dara-e-Takh, Chesht-e-Sharif and Obehs districts of Ghor.
- (d) Some 100 affected families received relief food assistance in Hirat. They were among 166 households who lost their homes to heavy snowfall. Authorities asked for immediate assistance to some 70 villages in Adraskan and 10 in Pashtun Zarghon districts of Hirat, isolated due to heavy snows. Catholic Relief Services (CRS), WFP and the Ministry of Rural Rehabilitation and Development will soon send a mission to carry out an assessment in the area.
- (e) Afghanistan's Government, the UN, PRT and NGOs will jointly organize a disaster mitigation response unit to respond in the event of flooding or landslides. Snow has already begun to melt and caused several avalanches. More floods, landslides and avalanches are expected as the temperatures rise.
- (f) Besides the above mentioned relief food distributions, regular activities continued. In total, some 422,000 beneficiaries received 2,250 tons of WFP provided food, during the period from 24 February to 2 March.

(2) Iran

- (a) After the 22 February earthquake in Zarand, Kerman Province, an inter-agency mission comprising WFP, WHO, UNICEF, UNDP, OCHA and UNFPA, travelled to the affected area to assess the situation. During the mission, the team had several meetings with the Government and IRCS authorities and visited some of the most damaged villages such as Dahouyeh, Hootkan, Sarebagh, Sekokan, and Dehghazi and Sousefid. It was noted that in addition to affecting properties, the earthquake also affected crops and livestock.
- (b) National authorities and the Iran Red Crescent Society (IRCS) have distributed 8000 meals every day. IRCS is also distributing dry rations and is planning food distribution for three months. WFP was requested to assist with vegetable oil, to be distributed among 35,000 beneficiaries for 3 months. WFP provided distributions of rice and beans are also being considered.

(3) Iraq

- (a) Border closures, related to the announcement of election results, has led to long queues at crossing points and delayed the import of some food commodities into Iraq.
- (b) Available information indicates that there are significant country-wide shortfalls in ghee, sugar and milk. Some governorates report serious shortfalls of nearly every Public Distribution System (PDS) commodity.
- (c) The first quantities of high energy biscuits, to be distributed as part of WFP's current emergency operation, have arrived in Iraq. The biscuits will be distributed to primary school children as part of WFP's school feeding activities. The delivery of commodities had been previously delayed due to the closure of the Iraq/Syria border.
- (d) Training continues at the governorate and local levels on the implementation of a school feeding project being undertaken by WFP and the Ministries of Education and Health. WFP also continues to work with the World Bank on the identification and analysis of safety net options with a view to possible PDS reform.

- (e) The Ministry of Planning and Development Cooperation is reported to be considering a pilot project in Dohuk to monetize the PDS ration. A meeting is expected to be held in April with WFP and the World Bank to further consider this project.
- (f) Vulnerability and Assessment Mapping (VAM) Training was conducted for the second group of 15 staff members of the Iraqi Central Office of Statistics and Information Technology (COSIT), Ministry of Planning, Government of Iraq.
- (g) The training is a first step in the establishment of a Food Security Analysis and Monitoring Unit within COSIT and is designed to equip participants with the necessary analytical tools to undertake the follow-up to the baseline food security analysis launched in Iraq last year as well as other surveys that were conducted by COSIT in collaboration with other UN agencies.

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

(1) Burundi

- (a) Security conditions improved in Bujumbura Rural province and in other areas last week.
- (b) During the week WFP provided the distribution of almost 1,600 tons of food aid to over 182,000 beneficiaries. In addition, WFP, in collaboration with FAO, continued to distribute the seeds protection rations (SPR). Over 450 tons of SPR were distributed throughout the country.
- (c) In order to respond to increasing food needs, WFP requested other UN agencies to increase their distribution capacities. An additional 150 tons daily distribution capacity is therefore expected from them shortly, bringing the daily distribution capacity to around 600 tons. Food stocks in the pipeline need to arrive soon and purchases of commodities allocated to Burundi should be done as rapidly as possible so that planned distributions can be covered.
- (d) WFP's operations could face pipeline problems starting in May (for cereals and corn-soya blend) and in June (for other commodities), and will be completely empty from July onwards if new contributions are not secured quickly.

(2) Congo

- (a) Railway repairs hampered food transfers from Pointe-Noire to extended delivery points (EDPs) in Brazzaville and Nkayi. Following the collapse of the railway line, Chemin de Fer Congo Ocean (CFCO), the national railway company reduced the number of runs from Pointe-Noire to Brazzaville. Only 9,500 tons of goods are now transferred per week, out of the 16,000 tons usually moved from Pointe-Noire. Priority is being given to commercial transfers and as a result, WFP now faces difficulties in moving food for distribution to beneficiaries. WFP is meeting with high Government officials in order to resolve the problem.

(3) Congo, DR

- (a) On 27 February, the Congolese Defence Minister flew to Bunia in eastern DRC following the killing of nine Bangladeshi UN peacekeepers in Kafe, in the Ituri district. His objective was to assert government authority in Ituri district by cracking down on the armed groups and assisting UN troops in protecting civilians from local militia attacks. The extra brigade from the Forces Armées de la République Démocratique du Congo (FARDC) began their deployment to Ituri last Monday but has yet to reach Kafe. They will be reinforced next month by another brigade also trained by Belgian instructors in Oriental Province.

- (b) The report from three recent needs assessment missions led by WFP Bukavu in Kabare and Walungu indicated that men from the 10th military region based in the area were harassing farmers. Reports of shooting and looting continue to be received in this area.
- (c) Assistance to several IDP camps was suspended due to the worsening security situation in north Bunia. Around 65,000 people were affected and left without food and drinking water, mainly in Kafe, Tche and Gina camps. Following the killing of the nine UN peacekeepers, most of the NGOs including Oxfam suspended their programmes in Ituri. Oxfam is working in the water and sanitation sector and other NGOs, including German Agro Action, are distributing seeds and tools.
- (d) The European Union (EU) suspended two projects in the province of North Kivu on Wednesday, 23 February following the looting of property belonging to German Agro Action by militiamen in Nyabondo Territory. One of the suspended projects aimed at rehabilitating the road between Masisi and Walikale. The decision came after systematic looting of the logistics base of the NGO in Nyabiondo between 20 December 2004 and the end of January 2005.
- (e) Both the Nyragongo and Nyamulagira volcano in North-Kivu province remained threatening and a small earthquake was felt in Goma without affecting the population. WFP planned to assist a large number of IDPs in Walikale and Masisi, in addition to the 13,500 returnees in the northern part of the province. During the past week week, WFP released 112 tons to assist 31,502 IDP's in the province.
- (f) In Uvira, returnees from Tanzania continued to be registered. According to a local NGO, around 250 people, of whom 167 are children, are gathered in a transit camp. WFP activities were affected as it was decided to limit access to Uvira Bridge to trucks of less than 10 tons.

(4) Djibouti

- (a) On 1 March, a joint Ministry of Interior/WFP/UNHCR/ Office National d'Assistance aux Refugies et Sinistres (ONARS) field mission was undertaken in the refugee camp of Ali Addeh, with the view of promoting the current voluntary repatriation exercise of refugees originating from Somaliland. In the camp, refugees were briefed on humanitarian support and opportunities available to them in the areas of their return. WFP has expressed its willingness to have one of the three existing refugee camps closed by the end of 2005. WFP is supporting the Somali repatriation by providing a nine-month food package to those who volunteer to return.
- (b) The Group of Partners for Education (GPE), which is composed of all stakeholders in the education sector, including WFP, held a meeting with the Regional Committee for Education (RCE) in Dikhil on 28 February. The purpose of the meeting was to identify schools which are facing the lowest enrolment rate, particularly for girls, and to analyse the causes and propose appropriate actions to improve the situation. Three primary schools (Koutabouya, Bandara and Gorabous) were identified by the GPE and the RCE in Dikhil. Based on WFP monitoring reports and conclusions from the GPE, the main reasons for the low enrolment rates are (i) lack of separated latrines (for girls and boys); (ii) limited availability of government-funded boarding schools; and (iii) lack of high school canteens and social and cultural traditions. An action plan will be set up to address the situation.
- (c) The GPE informed WFP that the NGO, Amal Project Centre for Gender, has been retained for the construction of latrines at Koutabouya educational complex. WFP had previously suspended its food assistance to the Koutabouya schools due to lack of water and sanitation infrastructures, basic conditions for the normal functioning of all School Feeding Programmes.

- (d) The Regional Director of USAID/REDSO, and the Information Officer, arrived in Djibouti on 1 March for a week long field visit to the country's food aid programme supported by the US Government. The REDSO Officer will visit WFP's School Feeding Programme in Obock and Tadjourah, and the vulnerable groups' food assistance programme for malnourished children under five in the refugee camp of Holl Holl. Under WFP's development project, WFP is supporting Djibouti's School Feeding, which aims to provide a morning and lunch snack six days a week, 200 days a year to around 11,500 children who attend school regularly.

(5) Ethiopia

- (a) There are indications from various parts of the country that the short season Belg rains (normally occurring from February to May) have begun. However, the National Meteorological Services Agency reported on 22 February that rainfall was below normal for the first two dekads of February. However, as it is still the beginning of the Belg season, it is too early to make predictions about the impact of less than normal rain in February. While the Belg harvest (July) is not a major proportion of the national annual harvest, being 10-15 percent of the total, it is significant for certain Belg-dependent areas in south-east Amhara (South Wollo Zone) and the Southern Nations, Nationalities and Peoples Region (SNNPR). Belg rains are also important for long-cycle crops that span the Belg season and the Meher season (long rains).
- (b) Meanwhile, the major area of concern remains the northern part of pastoralist Afar Region, where some NGOs report increased livestock mortality in localized areas. A general lack of pasture and water is seriously affecting the health condition of livestock. On-going food aid deliveries are taking place (both general rations and supplementary food for blanket distributions to vulnerable groups).
- (c) Other areas of concern include parts of eastern Somali Region (Gashamo and Aware districts of Degehabour Zone, Duhun, Garbo and Sagag districts of Fik Zone, and Shilabo district of Korahe Zone, all suffering from serious pasture depletion and water shortages affecting both people and livestock), parts of Gode Zone and adjoining Aferder Zone in south-central Somali Region (Denan, East Imi and West Imi districts); Hudet district in the western zone of Liban; and in northern Somali Region, Ayisha district of Shinile Zone. Pasture and water remain normal for this time of year in most other parts of the region.
- (d) Elsewhere, the lowland areas of Dodota Sire district of Arsi Zone in Oromiya Region, where deteriorating water conditions have contributed to reported serious malnutrition among children being taken to health centres, are being monitored closely. Conditions in Kemba and Zala districts of Gamo Gofa Zone in SNNPR are also being monitored. Carry-over food stocks from 2004 in adjoining areas are being transferred to these districts to assist the affected population. In the lowland district of Meyumuluke Zone in East Hararghe, supplementary food has been reallocated from neighbouring districts to augment cereal distributions in order to deal with the reported deteriorating situation; this district also suffers from a serious water shortage.
- (e) It is reported that there is continued tension among some of the communities in certain locations along the border between Oromiya and Somali Regions which were affected by the referendum held in late 2004. The referendum was to determine to which region the disputed areas would be assigned. This tension, the resulting feeling of insecurity among some people, and reported disputes over the sharing of resources such as grazing and water, has led to a further movement of people across the shared regional border, with a recent influx confirmed in Guradamole district of Aferder Zone of Somali Region. The migrants to this district are congregating in towns such as Haro Dibe, and putting pressure on already limited water and food supplies. In Doba district in West

Hararghe Zone of Oromiya Region, a further assessment is taking place to confirm the numbers of displaced people arriving from Somali Region; food aid has been sent to the area and distributed.

- (f) WFP has more than 40 field monitors and continues to monitor conditions in areas at risk throughout the country. Dialogue with regional government authorities over policy and operational issues is on-going through the 9 WFP sub-offices and through visits to regional capitals by WFP staff based in Addis Ababa.

(6) Rwanda

- (a) During the last weekend of February, some 60 houses including stores and school kitchens in Bugesera province were destroyed by heavy rain. WFP staff have assessed the situation and results will be reported later. The security situation continues to be calm.
- (b) The total number of Congolese (44,259) and Burundian (3,979) refugees in Rwanda now stands at 48,238. During the past week, 12 Congolese refugees returned to DRC. In Gisenyi, 115 returnees were received in Nkamira Transit Centre and a three-month ration was provided to them before their return to their areas of origin. Local authorities and churches are also providing some food and non-food items.
- (c) Rain began over the weekend and the planting of crops has begun. The latest WFP/FAO/NGO/Ministry of Agriculture (MINAGRI) mission estimated a much higher number of persons needing food assistance than in their previous report. According to the mission, people from Byumba have started migrating to Tanzania/Uganda. In other areas, food would be depleted in April, thus leaving a food gap between April to June. The report will be discussed by Rwanda's Disaster Management Committee.
- (d) The Ministry of Education (MINEDUC) requested WFP to launch the School Feeding (SF) activity of the Country Programme, comprising of 100,000 pupils, following the cancellation of pledges for the development project. About 2,000 tons of pea wheat blend (PWB) is due to arrive and MINEDUC will decide whether or not to provide porridge to the schoolchildren. MINEDUC would like to cover SF nationwide. WFP, in collaboration with MINEDUC and German Agro-Action would review the SF activities.

(7) Sudan

- (a) DARFUR OPERATION:
- (b) Overall, the security situation remained tense but relatively calm across the three Darfur states. A WFP security assessment was conducted in Mellit-Malha to determine the threat to WFP helicopter movements. Meetings were held with Sudan Liberation Army (SLA) and Government of Sudan (GoS) commanders who provided assurances that incidents of shooting at WFP helicopters would not be repeated. WFP helicopters have resumed their operations.
- (c) WFP, IOM and Cooperating Partners (CP) are preparing for the registration exercise which will begin on 1 March across the three Darfur states. Priority will be given to camps close to urban areas.
- (d) The authorities in Nyala are planning to relocate 25,000 IDPs from Kalma camp to a nearby location. Site identification and planning for the relocation are currently being undertaken by Humanitarian Aid Commission (HAC), Norwegian Refugee Council, OCHA, IOM and other agencies.
- (e) The initial findings of the in-depth analysis on rainfall and vegetation index commissioned by WFP, to identify the regions worst affected by erratic rainfall, were presented to donors and the Humanitarian Coordinator. The analysis will be followed by field assessments to determine the magnitude of the factors affecting food security in

Sudan.

- (f) The number of WFP beneficiaries reached in February is estimated at 1.35 million. On 28 February, a total of over 30,620 tons of food had been dispatched by road and air from Khartoum and El Obeid to the Darfur state capitals, representing 72 percent of the monthly plan. WFP continues to increase its warehouse capacity in Darfur. The planned capacity in the North, South and West Darfur are 23,900 tons, 33,000 tons and 26,000 tons respectively. West Darfur is considered a priority.
- (g) Confirmed contributions to date amount to almost USD 245 million – or 56 percent of total requirements. Though the project may seem well resourced, it should be underlined that it is only the cereal pipeline that is healthy. Contributions are urgently required for non-cereals, so that WFP can guarantee a complete food basket to beneficiaries and successfully pre-position commodities in key locations before the onset of the rainy season. WFP has borrowed USD 40 million to pre-finance the purchase of much-needed sugar, salt and other non-cereals in order to overcome shortfalls. Given that the delivery time from Port Sudan to Darfur takes an average of two months, on top of four months for contributions to materialise in Port Sudan, contributions for non-cereals are required urgently. Pipeline breaks in sugar continued to affect some locations in Darfur.
- (h) WFP's Special Operation for logistics support in Darfur faces a shortfall of USD 26.6 million. Hundreds of long haul trucks will have to be procured urgently to ensure that the logistics capacity is in place to support the increased number of beneficiaries expected during the lean season.
- (i) The WFP-Humanitarian Air Services faces a shortfall of USD 17 million. Of this, USD 5 million is urgently required to continue contracting and deploying the passenger aircraft which are required in the coming months to support the movement of both passengers and humanitarian cargo in Sudan.
- (j) OPERATION LIFELINE SUDAN:
- (k) On Wednesday 23 February, explosions occurred in the western side of Juba town, Equatoria State, which affected the part of the town where all government buildings and the UN office and staff housing compounds are located. According to Sudanese security authorities, the explosions were caused by the accidental exploding of ammunition stored in a bunker in the western military compound. All UN personnel were ordered to remain at the UN compound in the bomb shelter. Staff from UNMAS (de-mining) investigated the situation in the UN compound and at the airport and cleared some of the exploded shells. According to the acting Governor, 27 people died and some 75 were injured.
- (l) On the same day, during an airdrop operation in Pagol in Ruweng County, Upper Nile region, most of the food airdropped was looted by the local population in the presence of local authorities and the WFP team. The unrest resulted in the relocation of the WFP team to Pulmok and the area being declared a "No-Go" zone by UN Security. In Eastern Sudan, a surprise attack took place on a small military camp in Wager, located 104 km north of Kassala town. Following a security assessment by WFP, the area was declared as "Go-Area". Wager is one of WFP operational areas.
- (m) Food deliveries by land instead of air continued to take place from El Obied to Wau through Raja during the week. WFP conducted general food distributions to Shilluk IDPs in Malakal Town. Over 150 tons of assorted food commodities were distributed to 9,325 beneficiaries of 10,053 beneficiaries originally targeted in the Southern Zone. The distribution of 53 tons of food commodities to 3,200 beneficiaries took place in the Central Zone. Beneficiaries in the Northern Zone are planned to receive food during the first week of March.

- (n) WFP in Bentiu, Unity State finalized the registration/verification exercise in Mirmir and Rubkuai. Recommendations are for immediate general distribution. Some 150 tons of mixed food commodities will be required to cover the needs for half rations of some 16,200 beneficiaries in both locations.
- (o) A rapid IDP/Returnee assessment was concluded in Tambura, Western Equatoria and Lakes region. The assessment team reported a decline in food security in Tambura camps. About 20,500 beneficiaries comprising 3,790 returnees, 1,430 refugees and 15,320 IDPs from Raja will receive a full ration between March and July 2005. Another IDP/returnee assessment was conducted in Pagak and Maiwut in Latjor state, Upper Nile. Findings indicated that there are 1,024 returnees households in five locations namely Turu, Jetome, Kigile, Maiwut and Pagak. The assessment team indicated that these returnees should be incorporated within the general food distribution. Registration of returnees in Mayendit, Upper Nile as of February 2005 indicated some 620 people who arrived from different locations.
- (p) WFP Kadugli and Wau are providing logistical support to a polio vaccination campaign. WFP nutritional survey teams completed assessments in the sampled 30 villages categorized as IDPs, residents, drought or flood-affected, refugees, old returnees and semi urban. The exercise is taking place under WFP co-ordination and supervision, with the full participation from the Ministry of Health and GOAL, as well as with support from UNICEF.
- (q) At the request of the Resident/Humanitarian Coordinator, and in order to provide donors with an overview of the situation of vulnerable populations, multiple donor visits will be taking place in various locations in Sudan from 13-19 March. WFP and UNICEF are co-ordinating the visit to Kassala, Red Sea and Damazine states.
- (r) Major contributions representing a total of approximately USD 32 million for emergency operation EMOP 10048.3 are currently under negotiation. Confirmed contributions received to date against USD 301 million amount to USD 25.2 million. This represents only about 8.4 percent of the total operational requirements. Some 25,600 tons of commodities were confirmed to date against a requirement of 267,900 tons. New contributions are urgently required to allow commodities to be pre-positioned before the onset of the rainy season.

(8) Tanzania

- (a) A total of 2,524 refugees returned to Burundi in January. This is similar to the figures for the last three months.
- (b) Government officials continue to voice concerns over the possible increase in theft by refugees within the local community, following ration cuts that have been applied since October 2004. Recently, a refugee was burned to death by irate Tanzanians in a local village in Ngara, when he was caught stealing beans.
- (c) Some 401,000 beneficiaries received close to 1,140 tons of food commodities through general distribution, supplementary feeding and therapeutic feeding in refugee camps in western Tanzania. Over 12,600 Tanzanians in the host communities surrounding the camps were supported with WFP host community activities, including Food-For-Work, Food-For-Training, Food-For-Hospitals, and school feeding. In partnership with NGOs, WFP also continued to support refugee self-reliance activities, including vegetable gardening and sunflower oil/groundnut sharecropping.
- (d) WFP's Protracted Relief and Recovery Operation still faces serious shortfalls of corn-soya blend, vegetable oil and salt for the coming six months. A new ration modification took effect on 15 February providing refugees with just 1,323 Kcals per day (i.e. 65.1 percent of the normal ration level). Although the rations of some commodities will increase from 14 March, a return to normal levels is not expected until at least

mid-June.

(9) Uganda

- (a) In a gruesome attack, a group of Lord's Resistance Army (LRA) rebels brutally murdered and/or maimed more than 30 people in Kitgum, Gulu and Apac districts in northern Uganda. In one particularly gruesome attack in Kitgum district, rebels mutilated eight women by cutting off their lips; the women had gone to fetch water; in another brutal attack, more than eleven women who were collecting food from their fields were battered to death in Apac district
- (b) The 18-day cease-fire announced by the Government in a limited area of northern Uganda expired on Tuesday, 22 February. A cessation of hostilities agreement has still not been finalized and the Uganda Peoples Defence Force (UPDF) has re-occupied the cease-fire zone. It is anticipated that LRA consultations with the chief peace mediator will continue, although no definite date has been set for the negotiating teams to meet.
- (c) Following an influx of refugees, fleeing civil strife in eastern DRC into western Uganda in January, UNHCR has, to date, transferred 4,468 refugees from Ishasha in Kanungu district and Nkondo in Hoima district to Kyaka II refugee settlement in Kyenjojo district. WFP continues to provide the new arrivals with food assistance.
- (d) WFP food distribution continues to reach 1.4 million displaced persons, 192,000 refugees and other vulnerable persons. During the period 19 to 26 February, WFP distributed over 5,300 tons of relief food assistance to 540,000 persons, including IDPs sheltering in camps in Gulu, Kitgum, Pader and Lira districts, refugees, children in nutrition centres and other vulnerable persons.
- (e) WFP has completed the first phase of relief food assistance to drought-affected agro-pastoralists in Moroto and Kotido districts in the Karamoja region; over 112,500 persons received 1,450 tons of food commodities to last until mid-April when the next phase will commence. The drought relief assistance is planned to continue until the next harvest in September this year, and will assist 574,000 persons during the peak of the hungry season from April through July 2005.
- (f) WFP faces a shortfall of 53,824 tons of food commodities (46,916 tons cereals, 3,866 tons pulses, 2,576 tons fortified blended foods, 434 tons vegetable oil, and 32 tons salt) with a funding gap of USD 33 million, required to maintain the food pipeline necessary to continue providing relief assistance to IDPs and refugees through September. Unless new contributions are confirmed urgently, WFP will run out of commodities in May, and the nutritional status of 1.4 million internally displaced persons in northern Uganda, mostly women and children, will be jeopardized.

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

(1) Chad

- (a) The security situation remained relatively calm in eastern Chad, with some minor incidents reported around local villages. Rising tension was reported between refugees and host communities in Oure Cassoni.
- (b) The refugee caseload figure reported by UNHCR stands at 213,314. Updated figures will be communicated upon conclusion of the ongoing WFP/UNHCR/partners registration exercise. The exercise was completed in Farchana, Bredjing and Treguine camps during the past week and is due to proceed in Oure Cassoni during the current month.
- (c) A location for a new refugee camp, Gaga, has been identified with sufficient water to meet the needs of 15,000 - 20,000 refugees, according to OXFAM. A joint

WFP/UNHCR mission is expected to visit the site next Tuesday, to meet the local authorities and look at the site. Another site, Habib, has also been identified, 180 km south of Abéché. The site has adequate water levels according to satellite images, but has the disadvantage of difficult accessibility during the rainy season. The validation of this site will highly depend on a thorough assessment of the route.

- (d) February food distributions were completed in all camps except for the cereal ration in the southern camps of Goz Amir and Djabal, to be completed in the current week. The rations consisted of cereals, pulses, oil, corn soya blend, sugar and salt and were equivalent to 1,363 Kcal per person per day. The cereal ration was reduced to 50 percent as a result of delays in cargo arriving via the Libyan corridor. The rations will cover needs until mid-march, after which normal monthly distributions should resume. As of 9 February, WFP has provided some 155 tons of food to a total of over 35,330 beneficiaries in eight camps under the Blanket Supplementary Feeding programme.
- (e) During the month of February, WFP Humanitarian Air Services (HAS) served over 760 passengers and lifted some 3.5 tons of light cargo.
- (f) The mission of the Centre for Disease Control completed its tour in eastern Chad, during which it was accompanied by WFP and UNHCR partners. Following their visits to the camps, a meeting took place in Abéché on 25 February with WFP, UN Agencies and NGO partners to discuss findings on the nutritional situation since CDC's last survey in June 2004.
- (g) Another meeting was held between WFP and an International Relief and Development (IRD) mission, to discuss their establishment in the region and the programmes they intend to implement. The aim of IRD's mission is to assess the socio-economic situation of the local population living around the refugee camps, identify their problems and needs, and identify the financial requirements needed to implement long-term development projects, such as Food-For Work.

(2) Cote d'Ivoire

- (a) Pro-government militias and Forces Nouvelles clashed on 28 February in the village of Logouale, in the buffer zone between government and Forces Nouvelles territories. At least 15 people were killed and 40 injured. In response to this attack, the Forces Nouvelles stated that mediation efforts between the two sides were finished. The situation along the buffer zone and especially in the west is very tense with new roadblocks and periodic road closures. There are reports that more pro-Government militia members from Abidjan and parts of the south are moving to the west to plan further attacks on the Forces Nouvelles. UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan called on the two sides to rein in their militias and to cooperate with international mediation efforts. A Swedish politician and diplomat has been named the new UN special envoy to Cote d'Ivoire and Chief of Mission of ONUCI. He will replace Albert Tevoedjre of Benin, who resigned from the position in January 2005.
- (b) OCHA and IOM conducted a mission to the CIB (Chantier Ivorien de Bois), an area formerly off limits to the humanitarian by the local authorities, located north of Blolequin in the buffer zone. It was noted that many men have begun returning to the village and are rebuilding their homes and the market. However, not many women have returned.
- (c) In the Tabou area (South-West of the country), activities under the lowland development project (PBF) have been completed and most beneficiaries are now benefiting from their harvest. Through this programme, abandoned lowland areas in the region were rehabilitated and have greatly increased the rice production in the zone.
- (d) UNHCR has begun registering Liberian refugees in Guiglo (West of the country) who would like to take part in voluntary repatriation. WFP was invited by UNHCR to observe the process.

- (e) From 23 February to 2 March, over 590 tons of WFP assorted food commodities were distributed to some 66,320 beneficiaries. A joint project of WFP, UNICEF and the local NGO Solidarité Action Sociale (SAS) has been officially launched in Bouake (North of the country) to provide HIV/AIDS education in schools. Activities include training 480 students to be HIV/AIDS educators for their schools. In this way, 6,000 students in 30 schools will be reached and HIV/AIDS clubs will be established in each school.
- (f) Sufficient quantities of maize, and some rice, are available locally for purchase. In 2004, WFP greatly increased its capacity for local procurement. In 2004, 7,120 metric tonnes of commodities were purchased locally, representing 49 percent of all 2004 purchases for the emergency operation. Local procurement is an important way of addressing food insecurity in Cote d'Ivoire where farmers are facing severe cash problems. Due to the crisis, markets are disrupted and farmers can face difficulties in marketing their products. Furthermore, the devaluation of the US dollar, which makes imported food products even more competitive, represents an additional challenge for farmers.
- (g) Contributions to WFP's 2005 operation in Cote d'Ivoire currently total only 5.0 million USD or 18 percent of the total planned budget of USD 28.2 million. This funding level is very low in comparison with the same time last year, when the operation was funded at 43 percent. Contributions for local purchases should also be confirmed urgently as the harvest period, when prices are lowest, is coming to an end and prices will increase rapidly from the end of March.

(3) Liberia

- (a) The general security situation in Liberia remains relatively calm, but unpredictable.
- (b) From 21 to 27 February, WFP Liberia distributed 2,240 tons of assorted food commodities to some 323,870 beneficiaries. WFP aims to distribute 6,987 tons of food for 711,645 beneficiaries in March. About 266,000 displaced persons living in camps will continue to receive reduced rations.
- (c) As of 27 February, 72,139 IDPs and Liberian refugees have been repatriated and reintegrated, including 7,646 Liberian returnees and 64,493 IDPs since the beginning of the exercises in Oct and Nov 2004, respectively. WFP has supported the effort with 2,406 tons of wet and dry rations.
- (d) The accelerated assistance geared toward expediting the return process of IDPs commenced but was disrupted, on 26 February. IDPs were dissatisfied with non food items (NFI) distributed by GTZ and set up road blocks denying all service providers from leaving the camp. UNMIL calmed the situation but could not ensure the safety of WFP food commodities, which were brought back to the WFP warehouse.
- (e) WFP launched its emergency school feeding activities in Lofa County, delivering food commodities to 36 schools in 4 districts. Lofa is one of the areas devastated by the recent conflict. In addition to food support, NFIs procured from a donation made by Friends of James Morris, also were distributed to 36 schools in Lofa County. In Bong County, head counting continued at various schools during the week and is approximately 80 percent completed. Reportedly, there is a 25–50 percent increase in school enrolment generally.
- (f) WFP, Ministry of Education and ADRA jointly conducted monitoring visits focused on food deliveries, management and record keeping in 6 schools. A major problem observed was the lack of NFIs (plates, spoons, cooking pots, and cups) at these schools. WFP has procured additional cooking and eating utensils for 111,162 children. Distribution of these NFIs will take place and WFP will prioritise schools in the rural areas.
- (g) Approximately 340 schools administrators, PTAs from 40 schools in three districts of

Lofa (Voinjama, Foya and Kolohun) and WFP staff participated in WFP capacity building workshops focused on monitoring, reporting, food preparation, timing and ration calculation. Upon request from the humanitarian coordination section of UNMIL, WFP conducted a nutrition education/sensitization presentation to the "Montserrat Community Based Project" situated in Monrovia. The project is a self help initiative aimed at improving hygiene, sanitation, water sources, child feeding practices, home gardening, etc. in the community and supported is by the UNMIL Forces.

- (h) WFP is concluding the process of signing and approving 117 Food Support to Local Initiatives (FSLI) project proposals received thus far. WFP plans to provide food assistance to 11,000 farm families throughout the country in 2005.
- (i) Continuous pipeline breaks are expected from May onwards unless new contributions are received. To avert food shortfalls, USD 16 million is needed for WFP's operations in Liberia through June of this year. Food shortage will begin with corn-soya blend, salt, pulses and vegetable oil in May, and will gradually affect all commodities in June.

(4) Sierra Leone

- (a) For most of February, the general situation in the country remained calm. Freetown, however, experienced some tension on 28 February as University students' peaceful protest march against prevailing difficulties in various colleges turned into a riot.
- (b) During February, WFP provided the distribution of a total of about 763 tons of assorted food commodities to about 261,000 beneficiaries.
- (c) A meeting was held with Cooperating Partners to stress the importance of Gender and HIV/AIDS sensitisation in their proposals for food support. Furthermore, consultative workshops involving farmers, civil society groups and religious and traditional leaders have been held in Bombali, Tonkolili Kono and Bo districts as part of the Food Aid Strategy (FAS) formulation process.

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

(1) Regional

- (a) Overall prospects for the April/May harvest are mixed. In general, the situation in the northern part of the region and South Africa is considered to be normal. In the critical January/February period, parts of Southern Mozambique are reported to have received less than 30 percent of normal seasonal rainfall, while important parts of Zimbabwe and southern Malawi received less than 60 percent of normal rainfall. Dry conditions in Zambia in January/February may result in their maize harvest being 30 percent lower than in 2004. Rapid assessments show that parts of the sub-region will continue to have significant food shortages during the 2005/06 consumption period. Southern Malawi, southern Mozambique, Swaziland, southern Zambia and Zimbabwe are the most affected.
- (b) On 1-2 March, the UN Regional Inter-agency Coordination Support Office (RIACSO) in collaboration with the Southern Africa Development Community (SADC) convened a food security and vulnerability stakeholders planning meeting. The stakeholders recommended that food security and vulnerability assessments should be conducted through national Vulnerability Assessment Committee (VACs) and FAO/WFP Crop and Food Supply Assessment Missions (CFSAMs), subject to requests by governments.

(2) Angola

- (a) Following the dry conditions, affecting people and livestock in the south-western coastal Angolan province of Namibe (Bibala and Camucuo localities), a joint mission

comprising WFP, the Ministry of Assistance and Social Reintegration (MINARS) and UTCAH (Government body for the coordination of humanitarian activities) will assess the impact of the localized drought and plan appropriate interventions in March.

- (b) The Protracted Relief and Recovery Operation (PRRO) 10054.2, Support to Return and Resettlement, still requires about USD 36 million equivalent to 60,000 tons of food for distribution to returnees through 2005.

(3) Lesotho

- (a) Rainfall in Lesotho has generally been normal to below normal since December 2004. A dry spell in February threatens to affect prospects for a normal harvest.
- (b) From 23 February to 1 March, WFP distributed about 1,300 tons of food to 80,000 vulnerable people, including households affected by HIV/AIDS.

(4) Malawi

- (a) On 25 February, President Bingu wa Mutharika renewed his appeal to development and humanitarian partners to help the Government ensure food security. He expressed "alarm over severe food shortages in many parts of Malawi". Preliminary estimates indicate that Malawi will have a cereal deficit of at least 500,000 tons of maize this year compared with 400,000 tons in 2004. Dry spells experienced in many parts of the country in January and February could pose a serious food security threat in the coming consumption period (April 2005 – March 2006).
- (b) The President requested assistance to develop a 12-month plan to ensure that the likely production shortfall does not become a food crisis. The plan will consist of an assessment of food needs and will take account of the requirements for the country's strategic grain reserve and logistics capacity. Based on the assessments, short term and long-term measures will be drawn up to address the food security situation of Malawi.

(5) Swaziland

- (a) The Government of Swaziland and relief agencies have warned of a worsening humanitarian crisis in Swaziland, brought on by drought and aggravated by AIDS. WFP organized a high-level delegation of representatives from the Government, UN agencies and NGOs, to visit drought-stricken eastern and southern Swaziland on 24 and 25 February. The Deputy Prime Minister, who led the team, said the country is experiencing a poor agricultural season. The delegation reported that 70 percent of the maize crop was destroyed by drought during February, which ended what had been a summer of reasonable rainfall.
- (b) WFP will provide food to 280,000 vulnerable people, including 76,000 chronically poor, who require short-term emergency aid until the harvest next April.

(6) Zambia

- (a) Unfavourable weather conditions, mainly persistent dry conditions in some areas of the country, have reportedly caused irreversible damage to most crops. Early warning information indicates that southern and western parts of the country will experience a cereal shortfall. The Ministry of Agriculture and the Zambia National Farmers Union have expressed moderate concern about the possible outcome of this year's agricultural season. A WFP preliminary estimate suggests that the cereal harvest may be 30 percent lower compared with 2004.

(7) Zimbabwe

- (a) As the country prepares for parliamentary elections on 31 March, the political situation is tense, although under control. Prospects for an adequate 2005 harvest are dimming due to a number of factors including late and erratic rainfall; late and inadequate national distribution of seed; and a severe shortage of fertilizer and tillage capacity. In addition, price controls have deterred farmers from planting maize. The harvest is likely to be below last year's figure of around 1 million tons of maize against maize consumption requirements of 1.8 million tons. In the southern half of Manicaland, most of Masvingo, Matabeleland and Midlands provinces, the rain started late and has been insufficient. Therefore, very little cereal production is expected in these areas. Field assessments reveal that between 50 to 70 percent of the planted crop has been lost to drought in Masvingo and Matabeleland areas.
- (b) The lean season for food continues for one more month up to the harvest in April, when conditions should temporarily improve. Availability of Grain Marketing Board maize is patchy and intermittent. Prices are unaffordable for many people who survive by eating wild foods and reducing the number of meals consumed each day. The price of maize ranges from 20-25 US cents per kg, compared with the prevailing daily wage rate of only 10-20 US cents per day.
- (c) In January 2005, WFP distributed 2,700 tons of food to 970,000 people, mainly through school feeding, supplementary feeding, and food support to orphans and home-based care. Similar distributions were reached in February and are expected in March. (This compares with a peak of 56,000 tons to 4.4 million people in March 2004 when the general food security situation was similar.) Even the current small WFP distribution is making a difference to vulnerable people.

(F) Asia: (1) Regional (2) Bangladesh (3) Indonesia (4) Korea (DPR) (5) Maldives (6) Myanmar (7) Sri Lanka

(1) Regional

- (a) With the tsunami-struck countries in Asia moving into the reconstruction phase, WFP is launching a series of post-emergency humanitarian activities that will help hundreds of thousands of survivors return to a stable, productive and independent way of life.
- (b) Just over two months after the 26 December 2004 disaster, WFP is starting Food-For-Work projects in Myanmar to help people rebuild their communities. In both Sri Lanka and Indonesia, WFP has mapped out a strategy for providing nutritious food to the most vulnerable members of the population – orphans, widows, mothers who are the heads of their households, the elderly, the disabled, pregnant women, nursing mothers, infants and schoolchildren.

(2) Bangladesh

- (a) Prices of staple foods in Bangladesh are stabilising, though still above normal for this time of year. Reports on harvest results vary and are often contradictory, with most claiming lower than usual yields, while others report normal or even high yields.
- (b) The UN security phase in Bangladesh remains at level I. Visits to field sites now require formal UN clearance, which is causing some delays to field operations.
- (c) Distribution of blended food under the Supplementary Feeding Programme (SFP) of Emergency Operation (EMOP) 10380, Assistance to Flood Affected People in Bangladesh, is ongoing. To date, nearly 1,700 tons of blended food (equivalent to approx. 75 percent) have been distributed. WFP is expecting to complete the distribution over the next three weeks.
- (d) On 28 February, an EC/ECHO mission visited two supplementary feeding distribution spots and warehouses; monitored the food distribution; interviewed the women

beneficiaries; and held discussions with the women beneficiaries.

- (e) As no new contributions for WFP's Primary School Feeding Programme have been received and as no more resources remain, it is highly probable that distributions under this programme will discontinue soon. Preparations for General Food Distributions of some 12,530 tons of rice and about 170 tons of vegetable oil in April and May are underway.
- (f) The overall EMOP resourcing levels remain unchanged at only 38 percent.

(3) Indonesia

- (a) Despite the recent agreement in Helsinki to refrain from hostilities, skirmishes have reportedly continued between the Indonesian Military (TNI) and Free Aceh Movement (GAM).
- (b) According to current data from the regional body for Emergency Planning and Coordination SATKORLAK, the number of IDP's in the affected areas stands at between 406,156 and 445,254. WFP and its Cooperating Partners are working closely with SATKORLAK in order to align data on IDP's and to ensure that there is a clear distinction between IDP's and non IDP's in the beneficiary registration and distribution plans.
- (c) The number of WFP beneficiaries in Indonesia currently stands at 445,000, slightly lower than the 455,500 reported over the past week. This is primarily due to the movement of displaced persons in Aceh province. WFP is currently working with eight cooperating partners in 18 districts in Aceh Province, as well as in Medan in North Sumatra province. During the past week WFP established a new sub-office in Lhokseumawe, which will monitor and provide operational support along the northeast coast of Indonesia.
- (d) WFP cooperating partner Action Contre la Faim (ACF) has conducted assessments of new areas within Sampoinet sub-district in Aceh Jaya, and recommends 11 villages with approximately 2,000 beneficiaries to be included for the next distribution.
- (e) Former Australian Rugby player Nick Farr-Jones started a four day visit to WFP operations in Indonesia on Tuesday, 1 March. He is scheduled to tour WFP supported projects in Banda Aceh and Meulaboh. This trip comes just days before a tsunami fundraising rugby match organized by the International Rugby Board, which will take place in London on 5 March. The match, titled "Rugby Aid: Rebuilding after the Tsunami", will be broadcast live on television around the world, and all funds raised by the event will be donated to WFP for its long term relief and rehabilitation programmes in the countries affected by the tsunami.
- (f) A two-day UNJLC Tsunami Lessons Learnt Workshop took place in Bangkok. Participants included UNJLC, OCHA, UNICEF, UNHCR, WHO, THW (German Federal Agency for Technical Relief), UNHAS and WFP. The purpose of the workshop was to review UNJLC activities and determine potential scope and duration of its future involvement in the tsunami response.
- (g) The Executive Director of the American Red Cross, Julie Reynes, visited WFP regular and tsunami related operations in Indonesia.

(4) Korea (DPR)

- (a) WFP was informed by the Government that Chagang province -inaccessible for WFP monitors since October 2004 - would again become accessible. This would affect seven previously accessible counties. Monitoring visits into the province have been proposed for the coming week.
- (b) Visits to Ryanggang province have been temporarily halted due to bad road conditions.

- (c) Expected cereal arrivals will allow WFP to continue to feed all 6.5 million targeted beneficiaries with planned rations through May 2005. However, unless new contributions are confirmed, some children will not be receiving oil as of April and pulses as of May.
- (d) To save the rapidly depleting Local Food Production stock of milk powder, WFP has temporarily shifted to the production of corn-soya blend from the previously processed corn-soya milk blend. New donations of milk powder and soybeans are urgently needed. The current stocks of dried skimmed milk will be finished in May and stocks of soybeans will be finished in April.

(5) Maldives

- (a) WFP has distributed approximately 40 tons of fortified biscuits to 24,000 tsunami affected school children in the Maldives.

(6) Myanmar

- (a) Starting this month, a regular distribution of the full WFP basket of rice, oil and pulses will take place with the finalization of local purchases of the commodities. Pulses were in short supply in the market and could not be purchased for the last two distributions.
- (b) In Ayeyarwaddy division, Food-For-Work (FFW) activities in Pinsalu sub-township for ponds and road construction are on-going. It is estimated that the activities will benefit additional 7,000 beneficiaries.
- (c) In Tanintharyi division, the number of beneficiaries for relief food distribution has increased from 3,600 to 4,100 following recommendations by the food monitoring committee, formed after the first distribution cycle. In Kawthaung township of Tanintharyi division, World Vision is reaching 1,000 beneficiaries through FFW activities. The second cycle of distributions to 4,000 beneficiaries has been completed. Discussions are ongoing both at township and village levels for implementation of activities such as the renovation of bridges, access roads and damaged houses, as well as the relocation of some houses to safer places.
- (d) The Tsunami Liaison Group, comprising various UN agencies and NGOs, summarized the first draft of the evaluations of Tsunami Coordination and Response in Myanmar on 28 February. Recommendations will be shared with relief partners, donors and government authorities

(7) Sri Lanka

- (a) There was continuing unrest in Batticaloa district with violent incidents reported among which one incident involved a senior LTTE political figure. In Trincomalee the situation was tense on 3 March, as people blocked roads in the main town, threw stones and burned tyres.
- (b) The ongoing rice harvest is expected to yield a bumper crop. Better than average harvests are foreseen in the tsunami affected districts of Ampara and Batticaloa in the east and Hambantota in the south; and districts not affected by the tsunami of Polonaruwa and Anuradhapura. WFP is sending food procurement specialists to Ampara and Batticaloa to research the possibility of local rice purchase for its relief operation
- (c) WFP is working closely with the government Task Force for Relief (TAFOR), which has started to monitor food movements to affected communities and set up a data management system to collect information on food dispatches, distributions and problems faced. TAFOR is also planning to monitor the capacities of the MPCSSs in order to empower them accordingly.

- (d) The Government is still in the process of registering tsunami affected people and has issued more cash/food coupons to the affected population (approximately 950,000 as of today). Discussions with the Government have been initiated to resolve the situation as WFP is concerned that not all the people who have been registered are in need of food aid. As the Government is unlikely to be able to resolve the situation in the immediate term, WFP will most likely not be able to shift to targeted recovery activities before May 2005. The number of beneficiaries and requirements will be re-adjusted to reflect the continuation of General Food Distribution until the end of April.
- (e) WFP has noticed that the second and third cycle of food distributions are late in parts of Gampaha, Kalutara and Colombo districts; food commodities were dispatched in small batches and sometimes only part of the WFP food basket was received. Therefore the MPCs (Multi Purpose Cooperative Societies) have been awaiting the full dispatch of commodities to start distributions. WFP is addressing this issue with the Ministry of Relief, Rehabilitation and Reconciliation (MRRR).
- (f) In line with WFP's efforts to empower beneficiaries, WFP in Ampara district has requested local authorities provide beneficiaries with information on how much food they are entitled to. WFP had earlier spoken with beneficiaries in some divisions in Ampara and found that they did not know their food entitlements.
- (g) WFP monitoring activities in Ampara district covered all the divisions this week; it was found that most roads to the warehouses are now accessible. Local authorities in the district are also making good progress in speeding up dispatches and distributions – WFP was earlier concerned about food delays from division warehouses to the communities. There are, however, problems with storage capacities in Ampara and Batticaloa districts due low food distribution capacity from final distribution points. WFP is working on this issue with the MRRR.
- (h) WFP staff continue to collect data on schools as WFP prepares to launch a school feeding programme in all tsunami affected districts. WFP and Unilever are finalizing a school feeding partnership proposal.

(G) Latin America and Caribbean: (1) Bolivia (2) Guatemala (3) Haiti (4) Nicaragua

(1) Bolivia

- (a) Heavy rains persisted over the past week causing deadly mudslides in the Department of La Paz and rendering roads inaccessible. The toll of families affected by the rains in the Department of Santa Cruz has risen to over 800. About 40 communities and large areas of sown fields in the Santa Cruz lowlands were affected. Losses are estimated at USD 6.5 million. The Government declared a disaster zone in the flood-affected areas of Santa Cruz. In addition, the Cotagaita River overflow affected 273 families in seven communities of Tupiza, who lost their crops.
- (b) During the week of 28 February, protesters blocked the roads to the main cities in the Departments of Cochabamba, Chuquisaca, La Paz, Oruro, Santa Cruz and Potosí affecting WFP food distributions from the Santa Cruz warehouse to El Chaco region. Protesters demand the approval of a new hydrocarbons law. In addition, a general strike in El Alto, the satellite city above La Paz, began on 3 February over the Government's refusal to take over the water and sewage company, Aguas del Illimani, owned by the French group Suez. After the forced termination of the contract with the company, the local government argued that they do not have the resources to manage the water supply.
- (c) WFP distributed 6,650 emergency food rations to 800 families severely affected by the floods in 14 communities of the Municipality of San Julian, Department of Santa Cruz. Some of these families are currently in temporary shelters, located in schools and other

buildings in unaffected communities. WFP and UNICEF are conducting a joint mission to assess food needs in the region as reports indicate that the water level has increased, affecting more families.

(2) Guatemala

- (a) Members of the Anti-Hunger Front, government and municipal officials, civil society organizations and the private sector, visited Brazil to study the "Hunger Zero" programme and learn from the Brazilian successful experiences in reducing malnutrition rates.
- (b) The Government has given a new thrust to the UN Millennium Development Goals, and is planning to produce, with the assistance of the UNDG, the second national report on progress made towards meeting the MDGs. WFP and other UN agencies are actively involved.
- (c) A total of 60 tons of maize, beans, corn-soya blend and vegetable oil were distributed in the province of Quetzaltenango to over 1,420 families in the context of the recovery component of PRRO 10212, Targeted Food Assistance for Persons Affected by Shocks and the Recovery of Livelihoods. These food rations aim at enabling families to mitigate the effects of shocks through Food-For-Work and Food-For-Training activities.

(3) Haiti

- (a) On 22 February, following the mass escape from the National Penitentiary, a coalition of smaller political parties and civil society groups requested the immediate resignation of Prime Minister Latourtue. Meanwhile, the two jailed allies of ousted President Jean-Bertrand Aristide, former Prime Minister Yvon Neptune and former Interior Minister Jocelerme Privert, have begun a hunger strike to protest against the conditions in which they are being held.
- (b) The entire country continues in UN security phase III as the security environment remains uncertain and volatile. Common crime and/or political violence continue to be reported throughout the country. Tension increased in Port-au-Prince as the first anniversary of the departure of former President Aristides approached. In Cite l'Eternel, at least six people were killed and six others were injured on 24 February. Three members of the Brazilian MINUSTAH contingent were slightly injured during an operation in Bel-Air and a gunshot hit a window of the UNFPA conference room in the WFP/UNFPA building. The insecurity, however, has had no impact on WFP operations.
- (c) Based on reliable intelligence on possible looting of the warehouse in Cap Haitien, WFP requested a permanent MINUSTAH guard at both, the warehouse and the sub office building.
- (d) Some 265 tons of WFP food commodities were distributed by implementing partner CARE to over 6,000 beneficiaries affected by the floods in Gonaïves. Some 284 tons of food were delivered to health centres and schools (EMOP and Country Programme) in the West, North and Northeast Departments and to the various implementing partners of PRRO activities in the Northwest and Port-au-Prince.
- (e) Deliveries from the Port-au-Prince container terminal are still a major concern. On 25 February, the terminal activities were completely stopped due to the absence of customs officers. Efforts are now being made to improve the transit operations between Dominican Republic and Haiti to expedite the consignments coming through Santo Domingo.

(4) Nicaragua

- (a) The Ministry of Health declared a local emergency in the northern Departments of

Madriz and Estelí because of the epidemic diarrhoea outbreak caused by the "Rotavirus". A total of 27,997 cases of diarrhoea and 32 deaths have been associated with the Rotavirus. WFP is monitoring the situation.

- (b) Food commodities under PPRO 10212.0, Targeted Food Assistance for Persons Affected by Shocks and the Recovery of Livelihoods, are already pre-positioned to start distributions to vulnerable women and children and school boys and girls. Distributions under the school feeding programme will benefit more than 53,800 children in the Central and Northern Atlantic Regions. Food-For-Work activities will resume in March 2005.
- (c) PPRO 10212.0 will face shortfalls through July 2005 of rice, beans and vegetable oil if no commodities are announced in the coming months or those that are announced arrive late

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

WFP Weekly Emergency Report

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