

World Food Programme Emergency Report 2005
 Issued Weekly by the United Nations World Food Programme
 Emergency Report 2005-9

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(A) Highlights

- (a) In response to the current emergency that arose due to extreme weather conditions in Afghanistan and Pakistan, WFP is launching an Immediate Response project in Pakistan. Some 50,000 of the most vulnerable people in Afghanistan's affected areas have already received food assistance.
- (b) WFP forms part of an inter agency assessment mission, investigating needs from the earthquake in Kerman Province, Iran.
- (c) Field work for the Government of Indonesia-led Nutrition Surveillance System, supported by WFP and other UN agencies and international NGOs, began this week in 13 districts in Aceh province.
- (d) In India, the distribution of high energy biscuits to 133,000 tsunami affected beneficiaries was finalized.
- (e) WFP is closely monitoring influxes of returnees in different parts of southern Sudan in order to provide timely food assistance.
- (f) An assessment mission in Kenya found that approximately 1.6 million drought-affected people need food assistance possibly until August 2005, including 420,000 school children
- (g) WFP plans to increase food distributions in Burundi, after assessment findings revealed a food deficit increase of 6 percent.
- (h) WFP is providing food aid to some 4,260 refugees who fled from civil strife in eastern DRC into Uganda.

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

(1) Afghanistan

- (a) The security situation remained relatively calm throughout most of the country.

- (b) The adverse weather conditions across the country particularly in the north, centre and the west, continued to hamper humanitarian operations in these areas. WFP is joining hands with the Government, United Nations agencies and other partners to combat the acute food insecurity arising from extreme weather conditions in several parts of the country. Highly affected areas include central Ghor and southern Zabul and Uruzgan provinces, where thousands of vulnerable people are cut off from rest of the country due to road closures as a result of heavy and prolonged snowfalls. WFP has assisted 50,000 of the most vulnerable people in the affected areas, in response to the current emergency situation.
- (c) Efforts continue to assist food insecure populations in the severely affected districts of Shahrak, Tulak, Pasaband and Taywara of Ghor. Catholic Relief Services (CRS) and WFP have reached Shahrak by road and started food distribution in the area. WFP in collaboration with the Government and the coalition forces will soon launch food airdrops in areas inaccessible due to bad road conditions.
- (d) In Zabul, nearly 5,500 families in some of the worst affected districts received emergency food assistance. Food was airlifted to the remote areas using military helicopters. Furthermore, 240 families were assisted in Chora and Khas Uruzgan districts of Uruzgan province.
- (e) To help reopen the land routes in Ghor, WFP in partnership with the Department of Rural Rehabilitation and Development (DRRD) has mobilized some 600 workers through food-for-work projects to remove snow from blocked roads to enable aid convoys to get through. Snow clearing projects are also underway in the central Ghazni province.
- (f) In addition to the above mentioned emergency response activities, WFP continued with its ongoing activities. Overall, during the period from 16 to 23 February, some 442,100 beneficiaries received 3,350 tons of food across the country.
- (g) Under a Food-For-Work (FFW) project recently completed in Spin Boldak district of Kandahar, six springs, three check-dams and 12 karezes (underground irrigation channels) were rehabilitated. FFW interventions aim to enhance agricultural production and improve community access to social services through the construction or rehabilitation of communal infrastructure.

(2) Iran

- (a) An earthquake measuring 6.4 on the Richter scale occurred on Tuesday 22 February in Zarand, Kerman Province (750KM south-east of Tehran) at 05:55 local time. Based on the latest information received from the Iranian Red Crescent Society (IRCS), 430 persons are confirmed dead, while 900 persons are injured. The affected region comprises 40 villages and 3 main towns, with an overall population of 40,000 persons. The Office of the Natural Disaster Task Force, within the Ministry of Interior, has informed that search and rescue operations have ended, except in two remote villages.
- (b) The Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran has not requested international assistance, although assistance offered, either in-kind or cash, will be considered on a case-by-case basis.
- (c) National authorities and the IRCS are distributing relief items to the affected population. Although temporary shelters and tents have been provided, the IRCS reported that the additional tents and generators still figure among the most urgently needed items. IRCS is also distributing food rations to the affected population.
- (d) The UN Disaster Management Team met on 22 February, and agreed to send an inter-agency assessment mission to the affected region on 26 February. The mission will comprise officials from WHO, UNICEF, UNDP, WFP, OCHA and UNFPA.

(3) Pakistan

- (a) From the beginning of February heavy rains have continued intermittently in the southern part of Pakistan's Balochistan Province, causing floods and disasters including the collapse of dams along the coast of the Arabian Sea. Continued heavy snowfalls in Asad Jammu and Kashmir (AJK) Provinces and in the mountainous areas in the North West Frontier Province (NWFP) and Federally Administered Tribal Areas (FATA) have also generated avalanches and landslides.
- (b) The Government of Pakistan has immediately provided some relief to the needy people. Various national and international NGOs are also actively involved in the relief operations. Due to the heavy snow falls, rains and floods, the accessibility of the areas has been one of the key problems.
- (c) WFP has been actively participating in the UN Disaster Management Team (UNDMT) and was part of two rapid assessment missions in Balochistan, NWFP and AJK provinces. Based on the outcomes of the assessment reports, the UNDMT, including WFP, identified the immediate need for an Emergency Relief Operation.
- (d) WFP will as a first step, approve an Immediate Response project up to half a million USD, in order to provide food assistance to affected areas of Balochistan, NWFP and AJK, The second step will be the formulation of an emergency project for a duration of three months which is expected to be considered and approved by the end of next week.

(4) Russian Federation (Caucasus)

- (a) During the first half of February, the overall security situation in the region remained unchanged. The ceasefire that had been declared by the militants until 23 February did not hold completely, as last week Law Enforcement Agency (LEA) vehicles in Chechnya were attacked. On the other hand, the LEA seems to have used this period to intensify its efforts to eliminate militants and their bases, reason for which the threat to UN staff in the North Caucasus has not increased.
- (b) According to the Danish Refugee Council (DRC), as of 15 February, in Ingushetia there were 33,965 Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) from Chechnya of whom about 21,905 reside in private accommodation, and 12,060 in spontaneous settlements.
- (c) During the first fortnight of February, under relief distribution activities, WFP Cooperating Partners (CPs) distributed 1,190 tons of food to around 102,000 vulnerable persons in Chechnya and some 385 tons for 32,800 IDPs in Ingushetia.
- (d) Food commodities for the school feeding programme for February had been distributed through CPs in January. Some 112,000 children in kindergartens and 1st to 6th grades are currently provided with daily hot meals and high energy biscuits in nine districts of Chechnya. In Ingushetia, WFP also complements the daily hot meals for some 1,670 children in IDP schools, by providing them with basic food commodities through Caritas International.
- (e) The Food for Work programme was continued in the city of Grozny and districts of Achkhoy-Martan, Gudermes, Shali, Kurchaloy and Urus-Martan by WFP CPs – People in Need (PIN), Center for Prevention of Humanitarian Catastrophes (CPHC) and Open Continent (OC). The total number of participants involved in the implementation of the programme in February is 2,210 (representing 11,050 beneficiaries). WFP provided some 4 tons of food for the TB programme, which currently covers some 350 in- and outpatients in TB institutions in Ingushetia and Chechnya.
- (f) In February, WFP provided some 13 tons of food for the Dining Hall project, to complement the efforts of Caritas Internationalis in providing daily hot meals for 1,600

of the most vulnerable persons in Grozny city.

- (g) To date, total contributions to EMOP 10128.1, Emergency food Assistance to Vulnerable Households in the North Caucasus, amount to USD 16.4 mln (62 percent) against USD 26.6 mln required for the period until June 2005. Within the next six months, WFP expects shortfalls in wheat flour, sugar, salt, and high energy biscuits. Those shortfalls, if not covered, may affect all WFP programmes in the region.

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

(1) Burundi

- (a) The FNL (Front de Liberation Nationale) movement, the only fighting force not integrated in the Arusha peace process, has confirmed its willingness to negotiate with the Government under the facilitation of the United Nations Special Representative of the Secretary General in Burundi. Meanwhile armed robberies and killings were reported in Bujumbura Rural and the suburbs of the capital.
- (b) WFP distributed close to 1,700 tons of food aid to over 231,700 beneficiaries. During distributions however, people not listed for assistance at one site in Mwaro province rioted and the distribution was suspended. With the objective of reaching the most vulnerable persons not targeted through general distributions, the distribution of family rations for households having a malnourished child in nutritional centres will soon start in Kirundo and Muyinga provinces.
- (c) WFP launched the distribution of the Seeds Protection Rations (SPR) campaign for the agricultural season 2005, targeting 220,000 households throughout the country. This operation tries to ensure that seeds distributed by FAO are not consumed as food or sold by poor families instead of being planted. The programme aims at promoting the agricultural production and improving the future harvest.
- (d) The final report of the joint FAO/WFP/UNICEF and the Ministry of Agriculture (MINAGRI) Crop and Food Supply Assessment Mission (CFSAM) has been released. The findings of the CFSAM indicated serious food deficit in roots and tubers (10 percent) and in pulses (3 percent) with the overall food deficit rising as high as 6 percent compared to the same period last year. WFP plans to increase distributions during the coming months in line with the assessment findings. The SPR campaign to support vulnerable farmers in rural areas is one of the adjusted activities. Timely implementation of the WFP operations will require additional transportation capacity and food commodities, currently not fully available in the country. WFP is approaching other UN entities for support with transportation. Food stocks and purchases allocated to Burundi in the region also need to be moved faster, to respond to the increased distribution plans.
- (e) Unless new donor contributions are confirmed quickly, the food pipeline problems are expected to start in May (for cereals and CSB) and June (for other commodities), while the pipeline would completely break from July onwards.

(2) Congo, DR

- (a) At least 60 people were killed by the outbreak of a pneumonic plague currently affecting Ituri district. According to sources from WHO, the people who died were diamond miners in Zobia, an area located at 300 km from Kisangani. WHO expressed concerns about some 2,000 miners who might have been infected in early December 2004 and would have returned to their areas of origin. Although the outbreak could be stemmed rapidly, the lingering insecurity in Ituri district remained a major obstacle. Persisting violence linked with the continuing clashes between the Hema and Lendu militias

resulted in the displacement of population into inaccessible areas.

- (b) Emergency food aid targeted 56,000 people in the Djugu territory (Ituri district). Beneficiaries were families who had escaped clashes between Hema and Lendu militias. Relief workers could only reach the affected beneficiaries gathered along the shores of Lake Albert. In addition to food aid, targeted beneficiaries were provided with potable water, medicine and basic fishing equipment from OCHA and UNICEF.
- (c) In Maniema province, WFP implementing partner Cooperazione Internazionale (COOPI) continued the distribution of half rations to malnourished children attending their supplementary and therapeutic feeding centres. With the postponement of the airlift operation that should have supplied COOPI, food distribution activities will most likely be disrupted next week.
- (d) Food distribution to a residual caseload of 4,655 Angolan refugees in the Bandundu province was hampered by logistical constraints.
- (e) WFP planned to provide a six-month food ration to 709 victims of heavy rains in Kolwezi. An additional 10,206 people will be assisted with a three-month food package. Over 27 tons of food were distributed to women involved in literacy programmes.

(3) Djibouti

- (a) The first repatriation by air of Somali refugees originating from Puntland was organized on Wednesday 23 February 2005. A total of 46 refugees (18 families) from the Aour Aoussa transit camp were repatriated to Bossasso in the west-north part of Somalia (Putland) with the assistance of UNHCR. About 400 refugees are expected to be repatriated to the same destination before the end of May 2005.
- (b) Aour Aoussa transit camp is currently hosting some 4,200 refugees originating from south Somalia (Mogadishu region) who have expressed their desire to return home as soon as possible. Djibouti's recently approved PRRO has been designed with a view to support the voluntary repatriation of Somali refugees, which constitute 95 percent of the total assisted caseload.
- (c) The overall performance of Heys/Dada season so far is below the short-term seasonal norm. The Karan/Karma dependent areas are still dry. Water is generally very scarce, and a majority of the rural population is currently using deep wells constructed by the Government. Pasture is very limited. In the north, animals are currently concentrated in the Heys/Dada grazing areas from Asboli and Weeili down to the Tadjourah coast. The current massive migration to the traditional Heys/Dada grazing areas is placing pressure on limited natural resources. Cumulative rainfall during the Heys/Dada period is well below the threshold for pasture regeneration.
- (d) Livestock condition is poor, and a delay in the Diraac/Sougoum rainy season, expected in early March, will lead to a serious food problem for livestock-dependent groups. Food deficits exist in pastoral areas due to the successive weak rainy seasons (Karan/Karma and Heys/Dada) and the subsequent decline in income and food sources, combined with high staple food prices. WFP is currently monitoring the situation. In collaboration with other UN agencies, a UN countrywide contingency plan is being updated.
- (e) Despite the Government's attempt to reduce the cost of basic goods and services for poor households, the cost of the minimum non-food basket has increased by 23 percent compared to the same period last year. Kerosene accounts for much of this increase and the price is 88 percent higher than during the same period in 2004.
- (f) WFP distributed a three-month food assistance package to 3,050 most vulnerable households in areas affected by drought to help bridge the household food gap between November 2004 and April 2005.

(4) Eritrea

- (a) Field reports indicate persistent water shortages in Debub and Gash Barka. People were observed queuing for hours to get water for their households and livestock. Most of the small check dams did not collect enough water during the rainy season, due to insufficient rain.
- (b) Pastoralists are reported to be migrating from highlands to lowlands in search for pasture and water. Livestock in Gash Barka Region are starting to become emaciated. Distress selling has become a common strategy for de-stocking livestock or as a source of income to purchase basic necessities.
- (c) Prices of commodities continue to rise while some basic food items like sugar, bread, milk are not easily available in the markets. Although cross border trade reduced the price of taff in the country - up to 2,000 Nakfa for 100 kg - it still remains high for the poor households. The traditional coping strategies such as missing meals, sales of livestock or charcoal have been overstretched and many people rely solely on food aid for their survival. (1USD = 15.00 ERN (Nakfa))
- (d) The 2005 requirement for PRRO 10192.0 stands at 34,000 tons of food commodities of which 22,500 tons have been resourced. In 2005, WFP is trying to address the food aid needs of 1.24 million of the most vulnerable people with some 262,000 tons of food commodities, equivalent to USD 114 million.

(5) Ethiopia

- (a) At a meeting with donors, UN agencies and NGOs on 21 February, the Commissioner of the Disaster Prevention and Preparedness Commission confirmed that the 2005 Joint Humanitarian Appeal for Ethiopia is significantly under-funded and contributions need to be made quickly or needs will go unmet. Emergency food needs are only partially funded and the situation for non-food needs is even more serious as almost no contributions have been confirmed so far. He called on donors to make firm pledges to the Appeal as soon as possible. The 2005 Joint Humanitarian Appeal for Ethiopia was launched on 23 December 2004 and seeks 387,482 tons of food valued at approximately USD 159 million for 2.2 million needy people, and USD 112 million of non-food assistance to meet emergency humanitarian needs in 2005.
- (b) To date, a total of 88,000 tons of carry-over food stocks and carry-over/new pledges is available towards 2005 emergency food needs (not including some carry-over stocks held at the district level at final food distribution sites). Potential new contributions from donors currently under negotiation could total 130,000 tons (mainly cereals), which would boost coverage of 2005 emergency food requirements to over 50 percent. Donors are urged to confirm contributions under negotiation and other donors are encouraged to consider contributing to the food requirements of the 2005 Appeal.
- (c) The immediate physical pipeline for emergency food assistance remains serious, with cereal resources running out by March, unless contributions under negotiation are confirmed. In February, 2.4 million people are in need of 46,000 tons of emergency food aid; allocations are currently being made to the areas most urgently in need. This includes the whole of Afar and Tigray Regions, Gashamo district in Degehabour Zone of Somali Region and parts of Gambella Region. There are also important requirements in parts of Oromiya Region and other parts of Somali Region, and food will be allocated based on resource availability. Southern Nations, Nationalities and Peoples Region (SNNPR) and Amhara Region have some carry-over stocks from 2004, and no new allocations are expected for these regions in February. The target emergency beneficiary figure will rise to an estimated 2.9 million in March, requiring 54,250 tons of emergency food; confirmed resources can only cover 11 percent of March

requirements, thus there is currently a shortfall of 39,000 tons of cereals for that month. Some 3.1 million people need 57,700 tons of emergency food aid in April. WFP aims to cover approximately 50 percent of emergency food needs during 2005 with other requirements expected to be met through bilateral contributions to the government or through NGOs.

- (d) Complementarity between the Productive Safety Nets Programme (which is anticipated to eventually reach 5 million people in 2005) and the emergency food programme is critically important, as many districts include beneficiaries involved in both programmes. Shortfalls in emergency food assistance combined with further delays in initial food or cash transfers within the Safety Nets Programme are likely to result in food shortages in food insecure areas, with a high risk of increased child malnutrition and abnormal movement of people in search of food supplies.

(6) Kenya

- (a) The report of the 2004 Short Rains assessment has now been finalized. During the multi-sectoral assessment (for food and non-food needs) by the Kenya Food Security Steering Group, 20 districts were assessed through field visits and secondary data analysis; an additional 6 districts were assessed through secondary data analysis only. The report indicated that the performance of the 2004/2005 short rains has improved food security in many locations; however, there remains a substantial population who are highly vulnerable and continued support is needed to protect livelihoods in the short term. The prospects for an improved food security situation now hinge on favourable long rains between March and June 2005.
- (b) The assessment mission found that approximately 1.6 million drought-affected people require immediate relief food assistance possibly until August 2005, including 420,000 school children who will require school lunches. Food-For-Work will be implemented in those areas where it is feasible. WFP is preparing a budget revision for the current drought relief EMOP to accommodate these requirements.

(7) Rwanda

- (a) The political and security situation in Rwanda remains calm. During the past week, the USAID Food for Peace Regional Officer visited Rwanda. The officer paid a visit to the drought-affected areas in Bugesera as well as refugee camps.
- (b) The number of refugees continues to rise. The total number of Congolese (44,472) and Burundian (3,677) refugees stands at 48,149, equalling an increase of 84 new refugees in all the camps. Some 390 tons of food commodities were distributed in four camps to over 39,500 refugees. No repatriation was reported from Rwanda to either DRC or Burundi.
- (c) A total of 482 returnees were received in Gicumbi Transit Centre in Byumba from Uganda. This is the first repatriation since October last year. A three-month ration totalling 24 tons was provided to the returnees before the departure to their areas of origin.
- (d) During the past week, an Evaluation Mission on the Great Lakes Regional PRRO was conducted in Rwanda. Team members met with local authorities, donors and also carried out field visits.
- (e) WFP had to make necessary adjustments, through loans from other projects, cutting rations and suspending new proposals under the regional PRRO, due to a critical pipeline break.

(8) Sudan

- (a) **DARFUR REGION:**
- (b) Overall, the security situation remained tense but calm in the Darfurs during the reporting period, except for the two recent incidents where two staff members from NGO Kids for Kids and seven national staff from Catholic Relief Services (CRS) were detained on 19 and 21 February. In North Darfur, the road between Manwashi and El Fasher (Zamzam) remains closed. In South Darfur, tension between the Government of Sudan and Sudan Liberation Army (SLA) elements continue to rise in the area south of Nyala. In West Darfur, discussions are continuing between the African Union (AU) and the National Movement for Reconciliation and Development (NMRD) for access.
- (c) The preparation for the registration exercise, planned to begin 1 March continues across the three states.
- (d) As of 21 February, a total of some 22,015 tons of food have been dispatched by road and air from Khartoum and El Obeid to the Darfur state capitals, representing 52 percent of the monthly plan. Dispatches were affected by insufficient stocks at hubs for onward dispatch to the Darfurs; insufficient trucking capacity available from Port Sudan; and increases in labour rates. Dispatches from the three state capitals to Cooperating Partners (CPs) between 1 and 22 February totalled over 19,010 tons of food to an estimated 1,086,400 beneficiaries (based on dispatches).
- (e) An interagency mission of WFP, UNHCR, and UNICEF undertook a rapid assessment in Habila locality, West Darfur. The objective was to verify reported returnee cases in identified locations. The mission concluded that approximately 200 families had returned during the period December 2004 to January 2005.
- (f) WFP is currently planning to support the populations in Abuajoura, South of Nyala. The Norwegian Refugee Council has recently registered the population. Little or no support has been provided to these populations since April last year.
- (g) The Norwegian Minister for International Development Cooperation visited South Darfur and met with local authorities.
- (h) 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 emphasized that it is only the cereal pipeline that is healthy. Already the non-cereal pipeline has a break in sugar, which is a cause of distress among beneficiaries. 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.
- (i) The Special Operation for logistics support in Darfur faces a shortfall of USD 26.6 million. The WFP-Humanitarian Air Services (HAS) faces a shortfall of USD 17 million. Of this, USD 5 million is urgently required to continue contracting and deploying the passenger aircraft required in the coming months in support of the movement of passengers and humanitarian cargo in Sudan.
- (j) **OPERATION LIFELINE SUDAN (OLS)**
- (k) In Southern Sudan, an armed robbery was reported in Rumbek market. Staff in Rumbek were advised to strictly observe the Operation Lifeline Sudan (OLS) curfew in place. On 16 February, a clash between local police and a group of men resulted in eight deaths and many injuries in Akoc in Twic County, Northern Bahr El Ghazal state. GOAL staff were relocated to Wunroc. Following the incident, an OLS Security Team visited Wunroc and classified Akoc as a No-Go zone. The security situation in Akobo

has abruptly deteriorated because of militia fighting on 17 and 18 February. Five NGO staff were relocated to Loki via Chaiban. WFP food distribution targeting 5,000 beneficiaries was cancelled as a result of this incident.

- (l) Wau Hospital reported a high mortality rate of 16 (Infants/under-fives) during the month of January. According to the hospital, the high rates could be attributed to severe malnutrition compounded by other diseases such as malaria and anaemia. Lack of milk and major micronutrients in the therapeutic feeding centres was also highlighted. In response to the alarming rates, and following meetings with WFP and Action Contre la Faim (ACF), UNICEF has provided 30 cartons of BP5/F75 and F-100 to Wau hospital. ACF reported that micronutrient emergency kits would arrive next week to augment UNICEF responses to alleviate the deteriorating nutritional status of under-fives mainly coming from IDP camps and surrounding villages. WFP continues to provide institutional feeding supply of sugar, CSB and oil to the beneficiaries in these centres. A nutritional survey is planned to be undertaken by ACF during the first week of March.
- (m) Following reports on returnees from Western Equatoria, a UN inter-agency mission, including WFP, undertook a mission to Baggari village on the outskirts of Wau town, Bahr El Ghazal state on 19 February to assess the situation of the reported returnees. The mission found that 20 households have returned to this area from Tumbara in Western Equatoria and are currently living with their relatives in different villages. It was reported by the returnees that many people are on the road and that a lack of water sources along the way remains a major constraint. Transportation was reported to be available from Boo to Baggari village, although the road linking Boo with Tumbara is mined and no trucks are available.
- (n) Also in Bahr El Ghazal, the local authorities reported a high influx of returnees into the region. However, some individuals are believed to have organized their own return either on foot or by hiring commercial trucks coming to Warawara market. The returnees are being directly integrated into the community and targeted with food aid in various locations. Humanitarian Aid Commission (HAC) has also reported the return of about 800 persons to Juba from Western Equatoria state. Further to an inter-agency assessment mission, which recommended immediate food aid intervention, airdrop operations started in Pibor on 20 February and are expected to end on 26 February. The airdrop team has already received some 370 tons of cereals and pulses. Food distribution is scheduled to start immediately upon completion of the exercise. A joint verification/registration exercise completed on 19 February registered a total of 24,250 beneficiaries were registered in Pibor town.
- (o) Beneficiary registration exercise is scheduled to commence on 1 March in all six localities of the Nuba Mountains. General food distribution is planned to start during the first week of April and will cover the requirements of April through August 2005. Distribution to returnees will be carried on continuously as returnees arrive. In addition, proposals for supplementary feeding programmes received from CPs are under discussion. WFP continues to closely monitor the situation on the ground and to provide support to the returnees in Blue Nile state. A one-month ration, covering February requirements, will be distributed in the next two days to all returnees totalling 2,013 in Geisan and Bakori areas. Airdrop operations were approved to be undertaken in South Blue Nile and are scheduled to commence on 24 February.
- (p) Two barges have arrived in Juba port from Kosti on 17 February, loaded with about 850 tons of food commodities for pre-positioning in Juba. Delivery by barge is a cost-effective means compared to airlift. Food pre-positioning will allow for a buffer stock for the expected returnees and food delivery to Lafon and Torit by road.
- (q) Confirmed contributions received to date against USD 301 million EMOP 10048.3 amount to USD 25 million. This represents only 8 percent of the total operational

requirements. A total of 25,600 tons of commodities are confirmed to date against a requirement of 267,899 tons. The EMOP will face pipeline breaks with all commodities running out by June if the requirements for the period February - July 2005 are not received. Urgent contributions are immediately needed to respond to the pressing food requirements before the onset of the rainy season.

- (r) Special Operation 10368 in support of the EMOP faces a 70 percent shortfall against its total requirements. The total operational value is estimated at USD 89 million.

(9) Tanzania

- (a) Following a call by the Tanzanian Minister of Home Affairs for Burundian refugees to repatriate, a total of 2,525 refugees returned to Burundi in January. This is similar to the figures for the last three months.
- (b) A total of 400,920 beneficiaries received close to 1,140 tons of food through general distribution, supplementary and therapeutic feeding in refugee camps in western Tanzania. Over 12,600 Tanzanians in the host communities surrounding the camps were supported through 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.
- (c) The PRRO faces serious shortfalls of CSB, 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). Rations of some commodities will increase from 14 March, but a return to normal levels is not expected until at least mid-June.

(10) Uganda

- (a) The 18-day cease-fire announced by the Government in a limited area of northern Uganda in early February expired on Tuesday, 22 February. A cessation of hostilities agreement has still not been finalized and the Uganda People's Defense Forces (UPDF) was reported to have re-occupied the cease-fire zone. It is anticipated that the Lord's Resistance Army (LRA) consultations with the chief peace mediator, will continue, although no definite date has been set for the negotiating teams to meet.
- (b) The Government launched the National Policy on Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) which aims to promote a coordinated response to address the effects of internal displacement; provide an enabling environment for ensuring IDPs rights and entitlements; assist in the safe and voluntary return of displaced persons to their homes; and develop rehabilitation and reconstruction programmes to support livelihoods.
- (c) Over 6,000 families were left homeless after fires broke out in four camps in Gulu district. The families lost food and household property. WFP, together with NGO partners, will assess the situation and distribute food to the affected households.
- (d) Following an influx of refugees fleeing civil strife in eastern DRC into western Uganda in January, UNHCR has, to date, transferred 4,258 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.
- (e) Under a tripartite agreement signed by the Government of Uganda, the Government of Rwanda and UNHCR, over 480 Rwandan refugees were repatriated in February under the voluntary repatriation programme. To date, some 2,930 Rwandan refugees have been repatriated from Nakivale and Oruchinga Refugee Settlements in southwestern Uganda.

- (f) WFP's food distribution continues to reach 1.4 million displaced persons, 192,000 refugees and other vulnerable persons. During the period from 12 to 18 February, WFP distributed over 4,845 tons of relief food assistance to some 450,010 persons including IDPs sheltering in camps in Gulu, Kitgum, Pader and Lira districts, refugees, children in nutrition centres and other vulnerable persons.
- (g) WFP began distributing relief food assistance to drought-affected agro-pastoralists in the Karamoja region, bordering Turkana in Kenya, last week. The drought relief assistance is planned to continue until the next harvest in September 2005, and will assist 560,000 persons during the peak of the hungry season from April through July 2005.
- (h) WFP faces a shortfall of 68,680 tons of food commodities with a funding gap of USD 41 million, required to maintain the food pipeline necessary to continue providing relief assistance to IDPs and refugees through September 2005. 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) Guinea (4) Liberia

(1) Chad

- (a) The overall security situation in eastern Chad was relatively calm with only minor incidents reported. Gendarmes in charge of security in the camps reported rising tension between refugees and host communities in Farchana area related to problems regarding firewood collection and cattle theft.
- (b) WFP raised the issue of airport safety and security with the Governor of Ouddai. The Governor invited all security units in Abéché, including the French military, to discuss this issue and ensure that all necessary measures are taken to reinforce security. With regard to the Libyan convoys, WFP is assessing the possible usage of the Ounianga Kebir–Faya–Kalait–Biltine–Abéché route.
- (c) The caseload reported by UNHCR last week stands at 213,314 refugees. UNHCR will release new caseload figures following the conclusion of the ongoing WFP/UNHCR/partners registration exercise in the camps. The exercise was completed in northern camps and proceeded in central camps. Preliminary results of the registration exercise indicate a drop in refugee population figures. UNHCR warned that water levels are getting lower and underscored the need to identify new camps, in order to reduce the numbers in overcrowded camps, mainly Farchana.
- (d) Food distributions are completed in all camps except in Djabal and Goz Amir in the south, where cereals have just arrived and will be distributed during the current week. The rations will cover the period from 14 February until 15 March 2005. The next distributions are scheduled to commence around mid-March in southern camps. WFP expects to resume normal monthly food distributions with complete rations in March.
- (e) From 17 to 23 February, WFP completed distributions in nine out of the eleven refugee camps, providing some 1,710 tons of food to approximately 179,500 beneficiaries. Under the Blanket Supplementary Feeding programme, WFP provided some 70 tons of food to a total of 15,885 beneficiaries in nine camps. A DFID mission visited Kounoungou camp during the past week and expressed great satisfaction as regards to the food situation and the work of WFP and partners in assisting the refugees.
- (f) WFP has identified a number of Food For Work projects in favour of assisting host populations, most of which still require funding. These projects are currently being analysed and will be submitted for final comments by next week.

- (g) WFP is participating in a Centre of Disease Control (CDC) mission to follow up on a nutritional survey that CDC had conducted in eastern Chad last June 2004. Preliminary results of an Action Contre la Faim-USA nutritional survey in refugee camps and surrounding local communities indicate that the northern part of eastern Chad is the most affected in terms of malnutrition rates.

(2) Cote d'Ivoire

- (a) President Gbagbo stated that if the French and UN peacekeepers (ONUCI) were not disarming the Forces Nouvelles (FN) then they should leave immediately. The head of the ONUCI peacekeeping forces clarified that ONUCI does not have the mandate to disarm combatants in Cote d'Ivoire. French forces exchanged fire with FN troops on 20 February, according to a statement by French forces. No French soldiers were injured and one rebel was detained and handed over to UN forces while the others fled. The incident occurred in the buffer zone between FN and government territories.
- (b) From 16 to 22 february, WFP distributed over 800 tons of assorted food commodities to some 59,265 beneficiaries.
- (c) The WFP/FAO Food and Crop Assessment was conducted from 20 January through 7 February, in collaboration with the Ministry of Agriculture and the Ministry of Animal Production. Preliminary results confirm that production levels are satisfactory in the southern regions while production in the west and the northwest remains below average. Although insecurity, bad roads and harassment continue to limit the movement of traders and goods across the country, it was noted that the situation has improved somewhat as compared to the previous year. However, there is still a concern that vulnerable farmers in the affected areas may experience a longer hunger gap and food shortages.
- (d) WFP and FAO have begun procurement of seeds and tools for the coming planting season. Through these food for agriculture projects, seeds and tools are provided together with a seed protection ration to ensure that the families do not eat the seeds out of short term hunger and have enough energy to prepare their fields.
- (e) The IDP camp in Guiglo has reached its limit and IOM has expressed reluctance to allow further entries unless further resources are found to expand the camp. Recent arrivals at the camp have included Burkinabés returning to Côte d'Ivoire as a result of a misconception in Burkina Faso that the situation in Cote d'Ivoire is favorable to the return of plantation workers.
- (f) Contributions to WFP's 2005 operation in Cote d'Ivoire currently total only 2.6 million USD or 9 percent of the total planned budget of 28.2 million USD. This funding level is very low in comparison with the same time last year when the operation was funded at 43 percent. The pipeline situation for cereals is particularly worrisome, and will severely handicap WFP preparedness as well as hinder the implementation of projects to support poor farmers during the planting season and people at risk in the lean season.

(3) Guinea

- (a) The situation was reported as generally calm throughout the country one month after assassination attempt on the President of the Republic. Tension still prevails between the authorities and the Conakry students who have been on strike for three months to protest against their living conditions. Security forces are still visible in the university campus. Labe students have also voiced their dissatisfaction for the same reasons.
- (b) Swarms of locusts which invaded northern Guinea in January are now moving to the western coastal zones and the Kindia district, situated 150 km northeast of the capital Conakry. According to FAO, some 4000 mt of crops have already been destroyed by

the swarms in one month. Both FAO and WFP are assessing the needs of the affected population.

- (c) From 7 to 20 February, 305 tons of assorted food commodities were distributed to some 32,050 beneficiaries.
- (d) The voluntary repatriation of Liberian refugees from Guinea into the Lofa county started on 14 February with a first convoy of 140 returnees from Kouankan. They all received hot meals before leaving. The total number of Liberian refugees repatriated since the beginning of the facilitated process in November 2004 now stands at 2,122. Six convoys are scheduled in March from the Lainé and Kouankan camps. A two-day regional repatriation review meeting held in Monrovia considered how to accelerate the voluntary repatriation. A joint US-EU delegation is visiting Liberia and Guinea from 20 February to evaluate the international effort to help Liberian refugees safely return home.
- (e) The modalities and timing of a verification exercise in the refugee camps are being discussed with UNHCR. A total of 77,400 refugees are currently being assisted in the refugee camps. Of these, some 4,000 are from Ivory Coast; around 2,000 are from Sierra Leone; and the remainder are from Liberia. As of March, the Sierra Leoneans will no longer be entitled to food assistance.
- (f) Discontent is growing in the Nonah transit camp home to some 4000 Ivorians since 2002. The refugee committee addressed a letter to the BCR (National Bureau for the Refugee Coordination), complaining about poor living conditions aggravated by the reduced ration, and calling for a transfer to Kola. With no access to land and very limited sources of income, the Nonah camp is considered as one of the most vulnerable in Guinea. WFP and its partners continue to sensitize the refugees on the reduced ration.
- (g) Dwindling food stocks prompted WFP to postpone the second trimester school feeding deliveries to early-March. Distributions will cover a 30 day period instead of 55 as originally planned and a number of PRRO assisted-schools will be integrated into the Country Programme starting from next school year.
- (h) WFP partner ACF completed a nutritional survey in the Parrot's Beak area (Gueckedou's prefecture). The results will be compared with a 2003 survey so as to examine the evolution of nutritional conditions in the region, an area severely affected by the rebel incursions in late 2000.

(4) Liberia

- (a) The security situation remains relatively calm throughout Liberia, although signs of instability and unpredictability remain. WFP operations are ongoing without any direct threat. The United States has earmarked USD 35 million to recruit and train a new army in Liberia.
- (b) As of 20 February, some 63,600 IDPs and Liberian refugees have been repatriated and reintegrated, including about 7,245 Liberian returnees and 56,354 IDPs since the beginning of the exercises in Oct and Nov 2004, respectively. WFP has supported the effort with 2,121 tons of wet and dry rations. The return and reintegration of IDPs continued during the past week. Furthermore, registration of voluntary repatriation began in Bong County, in Maimu 2, on 17 February.
- (c) Figures referring to the period from 31 January to 6 February indicated that during that week, some 143,240 beneficiaries had received about 1,464 tons of WFP provided assorted food commodities.
- (d) The first convoy of Liberian Refugees to Lofa County arrived from Guinea on 14 February. Upon arrival at the UNHCR Transit Center in Voinjama, returnees received

WFP-supported wet feedings. Upon departure to their respective towns and villages, they received two months WFP food rations.

- (e) WFP Emergency School Feeding activities continue to expand throughout Liberia. There has been a 45 percent increase in school enrolment figures in Lofa since the initial planning figures from January assessment.
- (f) WFP is gearing up to approve 73 Food Support to Local Initiatives (FSLI) projects. WFP, in 2005, plans to provide food assistance to 11,000 families throughout the country under these initiatives.
- (g) Continuous pipeline breaks are expected from May onwards unless new contributions are received. To avert food shortfalls and make loan repayments, USD 16 million is needed for WFP Liberia through June. The food shortage will begin with corn soya blend, salt, pulses and vegetable oil in May, and will gradually affect all commodities in June.

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

(1) Regional

- (a) The UN Regional Inter-agency Coordination Support Office in collaboration with Southern Africa Development Community (SADC) will convene a food security and vulnerability stakeholders planning meeting on 1 and 2 March. The stakeholders will review the agricultural season to determine possible areas of food insecurity as well as SADC Vulnerability Assessment Committee's (R/N VACs) programme and assessment plans.

(2) Angola

- (a) This week, WFP inaugurated the School-Feeding programme in the central Angolan province of Bié, where at least 45,000 children will receive hot meals at school by the end of 2005. WFP's Regional Director for Southern Africa, and the Angolan Deputy Minister of Education inaugurated the programme. By the end of the year, WFP plans to extend the programme to at least 200,000 in four provinces of the country.
- (b) The Protracted Relief and Recovery Operation, (PRRO) 10054.2, Support to Return and Resettlement, still requires about USD 40 million, equivalent to 60,000 tons of food for distribution to returnees through 2005. Immediate new contributions are critical to avoid pipeline shortfalls in April.

(3) Lesotho

- (a) Good rains of up to 55 mm were received in the northern and western parts of the country after a dry spell threatened to affect prospects for a good harvest.
- (b) The price of food has significantly increased since January. The price of maize increased by 57 percent, wheat by 8 percent, and cabbage by 18 percent, while the price of sorghum declined by 12 percent.
- (c) From 16 to 22 February, WFP distributed 1,200 tons of food to 71,000 vulnerable people, including households affected by HIV/AIDS.

(4) Malawi

- (a) Findings of the WFP/FEWS-Net field trip to assess the food security situation in southern Malawi revealed that, although the country has averted a food crisis this season, widespread dry spells experienced in many parts of the country could pose a serious food security threat in the coming consumption period (April 2005 – March

2006). Many parts of the southern region experienced a two to three week dry spell that started towards the end of January. Some of the crop has been severely wilted and may not recover, even if rains resume.

- (b) The dry spells, coupled with heavy rainfall in the first half of the season and low nitrogen content due to late fertilizer application, resulted in stunted growth and forced ripening of tobacco before reaching full maturity. Most of the tobacco is reported to be yellowing and farmers are concerned that the tobacco this season will be of low quality, which may affect the selling prices on the auction floors.
- (c) A rapid food security assessment carried out by WFP and World Vision in the southern Chikwawa district indicates that people are employing extreme coping strategies, such as selling their livestock at very low prices, eating the roots and fruits of wild palms and resorting to one meal a day. The study also showed that there is high absenteeism in the schools.

(5) Namibia

- (a) On 18 February, the Emergency Management Unit (EMU) reissued an appeal to residents living along the Zambezi river in northeastern Caprivi, to evacuate the area after reports that the water was rising. Last year, portions of eastern Caprivi were submerged as the Zambezi river broke its banks, affecting 50,000 people.
- (b) The UNHCR/WFP verification exercise to establish the number of refugees in the camps was undertaken on 17 and 18 February. Preliminary results indicated that there are about 6,000 to 6,250 refugees staying in the camps. UNHCR will release the figure in the coming weeks. If the refugee numbers remain above 5,000, WFP will continue its food distribution exercise in the camps under Emergency Operation (EMOP) 10145.1, Assistance to Angolan Refugees in Namibia.
- (c) WFP 's EMOP 10334.0, Targeted Food Assistance to Orphans and Vulnerable Children Affected by Food Insecurity and Impact of HIV/AIDS, from 16 to 23 February, provided about 18,300 orphans and vulnerable children with 240 tons of food. There are an estimated 57,000 orphans due to AIDS (UNAIDS).

(6) Swaziland

- (a) The maize crop at tasselling and cob formation stage needs significant rains to progress smoothly to maturity, according to the recent Agrometeorological Update. A poor harvest, similar to that of last year, is predicted for this season, due to the combined effects of the recent storms and dry spells that have had a negative impact on crop development.

(7) Zimbabwe

- (a) Areas of Mashonaland Central province that were affected by floods in the last few weeks are now accessible after the floods subsided. The floods destroyed crops in several villages. The government, through the Grain Marketing Board, is distributing maize to affected households.
- (b) Rains resumed in parts of Zimbabwe after a three-week dry spell. Local leaders and communities have voiced concerns over the effects of the dry spells at the critical planting season and flowering stage. According to the Meteorological Services Department, the 2004 planting season started almost two months late. The season has been characterized by late distribution of seed, lack of fertilizer and tillage capacity and dry spells.
- (c) Preparatory meetings have begun for this season's Zimbabwe Vulnerability Assessment (ZimVAC), planned to take place in April. The ZimVAC includes UN

agencies, NGOs and government organisations. WFP plans to assist an average of 1.6 million people vulnerable to food insecurity in 2005.

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

(1) Bangladesh

- (a) The Designated Official for the UN in Bangladesh declared a countrywide Phase-I on Sunday 20 February. This followed an incident the week before whereby the office of a prominent local NGO was bombed and attempts to do the same were made at two other locations. The NGO involved is a traditional UN implementing partner devoted to improving the quality of life of women.
- (b) The prices of staple foods (rice and wheat) remain well above normal for this time of year. The Government of Bangladesh continues to sell government stocks of rice in limited amounts on the open market in an effort to stabilize the price.
- (c) Resourcing levels of WFP's Emergency Operation (EMOP), Relief for Flood Victims in Bangladesh, remain grossly inadequate with only 38 percent of the original estimate having been met after more than six months. With donor attention now focused squarely on both Tsunami and Darfur operations, it appears increasingly unlikely that additional contributions will be received.
- (d) As a consequence, School Feeding activities related to the EMOP will most likely have to be phased out as of March. Plans to utilize 12,500 tons of rice for FFW activities in January and February have been changed owing to delays in the repayment of rice diverted for Tsunami relief. A careful review of the available scenarios has convinced WFP to regroup remaining EMOP resources and apply them to activities under the Rural Livelihoods and Infrastructure Rehabilitation component. Also under the EMOP, the distribution of blended food under the Supplementary Feeding component faced delays due to various logistical constraints. Assistance has now resumed though at a slow pace in three districts.
- (e) The Japanese Public TV station, NHK, was in Bangladesh to film the life and work of a Japanese Junior Professional Officer assigned to WFP, and has also filmed various aspects of WFP's work including EMOP activities.

(2) India

- (a) The distribution of high energy biscuits to 133,000 tsunami affected beneficiaries was finalized.

(3) Indonesia

- (a) There was an increase in military activities between the Indonesian Military (TNI) and the Free Aceh Movement (GAM) as both sides prepared for the second round of peace talks that started early this week in Helsinki. Although security incidents did not involve UN personnel, food distribution and staff movement in the vicinity of the incidents were temporarily suspended. A food distribution planned for Monday in Panga, 20 km south of Calang, was postponed following an incident on 20 February. UN movement was suspended on the road south of Meulaboh over the weekend because of two separate incidents on 16 and 19 February.
- (b) Currently the number of beneficiaries of WFP's emergency assistance in tsunami affected areas amount to 445,000 people.
- (c) WFP's Cooperating Partner (CP) Action Contre la Faim (ACF) carried out a two day assessment of Sampoinet sub-district in Lamno. According to initial estimates,

approximately 10,000 people may require food aid. During the most recent distributions in Lamno area, 17,700 people received a twenty day ration through ACF. During this distribution, WFP and ACF reached eight villages that had not been assisted previously.

- (d) Field work for the Government of Indonesia-led Nutrition Surveillance System, supported by WFP and other UN agencies and international NGOs, began this week in 13 districts in Aceh province. Thirteen teams of eight people are deployed to collect baseline information on the nutritional status of the population, underlying causes of malnutrition, access to water, sanitation, and health facilities and household food security. The results of this study are expected to be available at the beginning of April.
- (e) Preparations for the envisaged Mother Child Health and School Feeding Programmes are ongoing. Port warehousing in Aceh Besar is being improved. WFP now plans to install 6 wickhalls and establish an office at the port of Aceh Besar. Due to road erosion caused by heavy traffic, deliveries from Meulaboh to Arokan are slow, and impassible to Teunom. The UNHAS Twin Otter passenger flights for the humanitarian community started on 18 February.
- (f) The Australian Rugby player Nick Farr Jones will visit Banda Aceh from 1-2 March to support WFP's operation. To familiarize with WFP efforts to deliver food to survivors, he will travel to Meulaboh and tour several WFP-supported activities.
- (g) Former US Presidents George Bush and Bill Clinton visited Aceh province on 20 February. A high level delegation from the US House of Representatives International Relations Committee and USAID visited an IDP camp where WFP distributes food. Julia Wright, Executive Director of the American Red Cross will visit Banda Aceh and Meulaboh on 26-27 February respectively. Her visit will also include a visit to the outskirts of Jakarta on 28 February to identify future funding needs for school feeding activities.

(4) Korea (DPR)

- (a) This month WFP is again able to provide all 6.5 million targeted beneficiaries with cereal rations and most other items in the food basket. Substantive new pledges will allow WFP to uphold this support through May, with the exception of oil that will already start running out by the end of March.
- (b) To sustain the production of biscuits and blended foods in WFP's 18 operating Local Food Production factories, new donations of milk powder, soybeans and wheat are urgently needed. The current stock of dried skimmed milk will be depleted in May, soybeans in April and wheat stocks will last until May on the East Coast and until June on the West Coast.

(5) Maldives

- (a) Some 24,000 beneficiaries are receiving biscuits through the school feeding programme, which will be completed in March.
- (b) WFP plans to target 42,000 people in the forthcoming food assistance programme to vulnerable groups.

(6) Myanmar

- (a) A WFP monitoring mission visited Tsunami affected villages in Kawthaung township of Tanintharyi Division from 17 to 21 February. The mission reviewed the progress of the second round of relief food distribution by World Vision (WV) to 4,000 beneficiaries in the 10 affected villages. A total of over 50 tons of rice and oil was distributed. From March, WV will start Food-For-Work (FFW) activities in the villages, focusing on the renovations of bridges, access roads, water supply facilities, houses, and fishing boats,

targeting some 1,000 additional beneficiaries.

- (b) The mission observed that the health situation was satisfactory as no outbreak of diseases was reported after Tsunami. Interviews with beneficiaries indicate that food was received timeously and in correct quantities. Food management and distribution has improved with the introduction of food ration cards and formation of food management committees at the village level.
- (c) In Ayeyarwaddy division, relief food distribution will be also completed by the end of February, reaching 3,000 beneficiaries. Cooperating Partner ADRA has already started registering participants for FFW in Pinsalu village, who will participate in the construction of ponds and roads after the finalization of the site plans. An additional 7,000 beneficiaries will benefit from these activities. WFP is finalizing arrangements with the suppliers to preposition 660 tons of rice and 140 tons of pulses in the affected areas before the onset of rainy seasons in May. In Ayeyarwaddy division, ADRA has established two main warehouses in Pyin-Sa-Lu and Dee Do Gone, while WV is planning to acquire additional warehouse capacity in Kawthaung.
- (d) WFP is in the process of carrying out a baseline survey through Community Food Security Profiling (CFSP) in five most food insecure and vulnerable States and Divisions of Myanmar. This information is intended to offer an in-depth analysis of food security problems and opportunities to address them for better WFP programming and planning. At the same time, WFP is also planning to conduct a Nutrition Baseline survey in existing project areas in Northern Shan State and Magway Division and the potential expansion area in Central Shan State, in order to identify the food and nutrition security status of the households in these areas.
- (e) Under PRRO 10066.2, Assistance to Returnees and Returnees in North Rakhine State and Magway Division of Myanmar, WFP has extended its programme activities to Magway Division, located in the dry zone, targeting the six most food insecure townships. Due to poverty, many families are unable to send their children to schools. A baseline survey in 176 schools has started and the Food-For-Education (FFE) programme will benefit 22,000 primary school children. During the fortnight, a total of over 168 tons of rice and about 14 tons of pulses were distributed to approximately 16,800 beneficiaries in Northern Rakhine State through FFW, FFE, Food-For-Training (FFT) and relief distributions.
- (f) Under EMOP 10345.0, Emergency Food Assistance to Ex-Poppy Farmers in Northern Shan State, during the month of January, a total of about 385 tons of rice was distributed to some 31,295 beneficiaries under FFW, Food for Education and Vulnerable Group Feeding activities.

(7) Sri Lanka

- (a) The Norwegian Special Peace Envoy, Erik Solheim, arrived in Sri Lanka a day before the third anniversary of the 2002 cease-fire between the government and the LTTE. He will hold separate talks with the President and the LTTE's political chief during a one-week visit. A breakthrough in peace talks is not expected, but it is hoped that an arrangement between the Government and the LTTE on the disbursement of tsunami relief will be made.
- (b) It is reported that the leader of the Karuna breakaway group within the LTTE, based in the east of the country, has challenged the leadership of the Wannu LTTE group - the founding and dominant group that controls the north. The situation is being monitored closely.
- (c) WFP met with officials from the Ministry of Relief, Rehabilitation and Reconciliation (MRRR) to discuss various operational issues. The MRRR is WFP's key implementing partner. Main issues discussed included the government's ban on rice importation, due

to an imminent rice harvest. WFP explained its willingness to buy rice from the local market, as this will support local farmers.

- (d) In response to WFP's concern regarding the indiscriminate issuing of food coupons to beneficiaries, the MRRR responded that they will monitor the issue and stop any further indiscriminate distribution accordingly. WFP staff is monitoring activities on a daily basis, and in particular checks the finalization of coupon distribution and timeliness of food dispatch and distribution at community levels. All of the tsunami affected districts have reported substantial progress in the issuing of food coupons, which now have reached over 90 percent of the beneficiaries.
- (e) WFP, World Vision and the MRRR are gearing up to implement a supplementary feeding programme, through primary schools, in the nine districts affected by the tsunami. The programme is planned for an initial two months and will commence on 1 March, targeting a total of over 34,400 children in 171 schools.
- (f) WFP and other agencies are experiencing serious delays in clearing items from Customs at the Colombo airport. This has been a recurring problem since the tsunami operation began. WFP and other UN agencies are urging the authorities concerned to resolve the issue immediately.
- (g) Former US Presidents George Bush Senior and Bill Clinton visited Sri Lanka on Monday, as part of their tour of tsunami-hit countries in South and Southeast Asia.

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

(1) Colombia

- (a) Strong rains and floods killed more than 54 people, injured 105 and left 90,000 homeless in the provinces of Santander, Norte de Santander, Choco, Huila and Tolima. The Colombian Government announced that more than USD 35 million dollars will be designated to help affected families. WFP delivered over 35 tons of emergency food rations to some 3,500 people in the municipalities of Bucaramanga, Giron and Lebrija, Province of Santander, and will deliver some 80 tons of food to the provinces of Santander and Norte de Santander.
- (b) During the past week, some 1,200 displaced families settled temporarily along the Bojayá River, Province of Choco due to fear of impending clashes between illegal armed groups. WFP delivered over 15 tons of emergency food aid to some 250 families settled in different points on the banks of the Bojayá, Cuia, Opogado and Napipi rivers.
- (c) Clashes between illegal armed groups and the Colombian army continued. Five people were killed and 17 were severely injured after a bomb explosion in the Municipality of Puerto Toledo, Province of Meta. WFP Colombia implements food aid activities in this province in the context of PRRO 10158, Assistance to People Displaced by Violence.
- (d) Two people were injured and a radio station was heavily damaged by a bomb explosion in the city of Cali, Province of Valle del Cauca. WFP is planning to open a new sub-office in this city in the context of a new PRRO 10366 which starts in April of this year.
- (e) During the past week, a total of some 485 tons of food were delivered in the context of PRRO 10158. The food was distributed in 12 provinces, reaching 43,765 people. These commodities were distributed under Food For Work / Food For Training, Food for Crisis, and Community Kitchens activities.

(2) Cuba

- (a) The persistent drought experienced in the eastern part of the island, particularly the

provinces of Guantánamo, Granma, Santiago de Cuba, Holguín, Las Tunas and Camagüey, over the past 10 years affected the water sources, the agriculture and cattle and has made the population extremely vulnerable to food insecurity. The main dams are well below average levels; as a consequence, water is being distributed through water tank trucks in cycles of between 3 and 20 days.

- (b) The government has taken measures to restrict the water consumption of the agricultural sector and urges the population to reduce the use of water. The government is providing an additional food ration to some vulnerable groups. Last year, WFP supported some of the eastern provinces with an Immediate Response Emergency Operation that ended in November.

(3) Guatemala

- (a) A total of 474 hectares have been destroyed since the beginning of the year by approximately 50 forest fires, of which 10 are still active. The Honduras Air Force has provided one equipped helicopter to support the government efforts to extinguish active fires. The System for Prevention and Control of Forest Fires declared an institutional and national yellow alert as current conditions are conducive to the development of new forest fires.
- (b) In the province of Izabal, a teachers' strike protesting against the dismissal of the Education Provincial Director led to the suspension of classes for around 50,000 pupils in primary and secondary schools.
- (c) The PRRO 10212.0 will face shortfalls of maize and vegetable oil by May and June 2005 respectively. The projected shortfalls will prevent children under five years of age who are suffering from acute malnutrition, from improving their nutritional status and might increase the number of children needing assistance.

(4) Guyana

- (a) The Government of Guyana reported that the water has receded and that only a few areas have to be micro-drained. The major concern is the health threat. The Ministry of Health reported that 117 men and 81 women were clinically diagnosed with leptospirosis and a total of 23 people died. The Government continues to deliver hot meals to the nine remaining shelters and is providing mattresses, blankets and dry rations for 14 days to the people leaving the shelters.
- (b) Community leaders and organizations supported WFP's cooperating partners during food distributions. WFP food distributions (204 tons) ended on 22 February. However, WFP post distribution monitoring continues in the targeted East Coast communities.
- (c) On 19 February, WFP met with the Chilean President, Ricardo Lagos, during the presidential visit to Guyana. President Lagos reiterated his government's interest in strengthening cooperation with WFP to assist with the operations in the Latin America and Caribbean region.
- (d) On 21 February, WFP also met with the Secretary General of the Caribbean inter-governmental organization CARICOM to convey WFP's interest in working with CARICOM to strengthen emergency response operations in the Caribbean. CARICOM and WFP will work on strengthening links and will move forward to coordinate future efforts.

(5) Haiti

- (a) Strong concerns for the overall situation in Haiti (insecurity, volatility, political polarization, unemployment and human rights abuse) was expressed during the 16th Inter-Sessional Meeting of Heads of Government of the Caribbean Community

CARICOM, that took place in Suriname on 16 to 17 February.

- (b) On 19 February, heavily armed gunmen attacked the National Penitentiary killing one guard and freeing 481 prisoners. According to the Haitian and the MINUSTAH officials, former Prime Minister Yvon Neptune and former Interior Minister Jocelerme Privert were amongst the fugitive prisoners. The MINUSTAH troops were informed of their whereabouts to return them to their cells.
- (c) Some 405 tons of WFP food commodities were distributed by implementing partner CARE to over 7,350 beneficiaries affected by the floods in Gonaïves. Distributions were carried out at 1-2 sites per day. In addition, some 405 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.
- (d) A new protracted relief and recovery operation project document is being prepared following the recommendations made by the project design mission composed of members from CIDA, FAO and WFP.
- (e) A food fortification expert from the Micronutrient Initiative visited WFP to perform a situation assessment on the fortification of locally produced foods.
- (f) A representative from the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation visited WFP supported projects in Port-au-Prince and Cap Haitien

(6) Nicaragua

- (a) The National Teacher's Association (ANDEN) suspended the national strike after the Government of Nicaragua accepted their demands and signed a commitment to increase their salaries. Meanwhile, the health sector workers announced new demonstrations and partial strikes to force the Government to increase their salaries.
- (b) National NGO's joined by international environmental organizations are carrying out a media campaign against Genetically Modified Organisms (GMO).
- (c) During the past week, WFP delivered some 69 tons of maize, vegetable oil, beans and milk to the schools in Matagalpa, to some 10,860 school children in the context of PRRO 10212.0. Food commodities are already pre-positioned to start distributions in the North Atlantic Autonomous Region to 42,940 children covered in this operation.
- (d) If no commodities are announced in the coming months or those that are announced arrive late, the Nicaragua component of PRRO 10212.0 will face serious pipeline breaks during the second half of 2005.

WFP EMERGENCY REPORT OF 25 FEBRUARY 2005

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

WFP Weekly Emergency Report

From **David Kaatrud**, Chief of the Analysis, Assessment and Preparedness Service of the United Nations World Food Programme (ODA); also available online at www.wfp.org^[1] or go directly to the [WFP Newsroom](#)^[2].

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

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