

Emergency Report n. 37
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Highlights

(a) In Niger WFP has so far dispatched over 17,000 tons of food for the first round of general distributions, enough food to feed over 1 million people.

(b) Insecurity in Darfur is observed to be on the rise, with an increasing number of attacks and looting incidences being reported every week.

(c) The number of returnees from Tanzania into Burundi continues to increase and is expected to peak in September 2005.

(d) Southern Africa has experienced its worst harvest since 2002, in particular Malawi, which has experienced its worst harvest since 1994.

(e) DPR Korea wants the WFP to shift the focus of its aid from food supplies to development projects

Middle East, Central Asia and Eastern Europe Occupied Palestinian Territories

(a) After over 40 days of closure, access to Tulkarem is now restored for the local population. The situation in the Gaza Strip is increasingly volatile. All non-essential UN staff have been evacuated including many UNRWA staff. Israel has accelerated work to complete the West Bank separation barrier following the suicide bombing in Beer Sheva.

(b) The reporting period (2-8 September) represents the first week of the Protracted Relief and Recovery Operation (PRRO). In the West Bank, WFP dispatched 451 tons to warehouses in Nablus and Jenin and 260 tons in the central and southern Governorates to cover the September and October allocations for the Social Hardship Cases. Food deliveries during the reporting period was 1,476 tons.

(c) WFP started the market price survey this week, to record prices of basic food commodities in local markets. The survey will be conducted bimonthly, and will analyse fluctuations in prices and variations among different areas (rural, urban).

(d) In the Gaza Strip, food distribution to 9,000 New Poor families has been extended for one month owing to the difficulties faced by the population in Gaza in this period. Assessment of institutional feeding centres in the Gaza Strip is ongoing and is expected to be completed within 2 weeks.

(e) The joint review of the Bedouin community has started in the Gaza Strip between IMG and WFP. The main objective is to i) establish quantified data on the Bedouin

communities, ii) improve understanding of their needs by defining their socio economic and livelihood characteristics and their coping strategies, iii) identify areas of interventions in food and non-food sector and more specifically of the most appropriate types of interventions. WFP has requested the Ministry of Agriculture to participate in the study as they should implement an 8 months programme with this group starting November 2005. A planning meeting was held with IMG and Gaza Strip WFP staff in Jerusalem to brief all concerned on the agenda and finalise roles and responsibilities.

(f) OCHA and WFP are starting a joint project to link maps of food insecurity and area closures for the CAP 2006.

East & Central Africa

Burundi

(a) During the reporting period (2-9 September), there was an improvement in the security situation of several provinces. However, the Front for National Libération (FNL) rebel activities continued in Kayanza and Bubanza provinces. An increase in armed banditry was reported in some areas. Former armed youths, 'gardiens de la paix', continued to establish barricades on roads.

(b) WFP distributed close to 1,180 tons of food aid to 87,155 beneficiaries during the week in various provinces.

(c) Distribution of Seed Protection Rations (SPR) to support the agricultural season 2006A has started. However, following the delayed arrivals of the commodity, SPR distributions are being carried out without oil. It is planned to assist around 30,000 families this week in the provinces of Kirundo, Bubanza, Gitega and Bujumbura Rural. Overall, the SPR is expected to reach 179,000 households nation-wide during September and October 2005. WFP and FAO staff publicly validated beneficiary lists last week, with the local administrators, for the SPR distributions in Rutana, Ruyigi, Mwaro and Kirundo provinces.

(d) UNHCR reported a continuing increase in repatriation from Tanzania, which is expected to reach its peak in September due to the start of the school year, the planting season, a stable political situation and relative security. In addition, UNHCR has registered a total 2,129 Rwandan asylum seekers in the northern provinces (Ngozi, Kirundo, Kayanza and Muyinga). They will all be considered for food assistance by WFP.

(e) A joint inter-agency assessment of food security and the nutritional situation was carried out by WFP, OCHA, UNICEF, FAO and Action Contre la Faim (ACF) in Ngozi and Kayanza provinces. Preliminary results indicate that admissions to nutritional centres have stabilised. However, with low household food reserves, the situation could easily deteriorate. WFP will organise food distributions through the SPR, food-for-work (FFW) and other programmes to prevent deterioration while monitoring the situation.

Congo, DR

(a) In Ituri district, tension among the population was fuelled by the resurgence of insecurity mainly in Boga, located 125km south of Bunia. On 26 August, a coalition of various militias seized Boga until the United Nations Mission in the Democratic Republic of Congo (MONUC) intervention on 30 August. Counter attacks from militiamen generated such violence that hundreds of nearby villagers were reportedly displaced and fled to Bunia and to areas in North Kivu province such as Tchabi and Eringeti.

(b) In Bunia airport camp, 5,221 displaced persons prepared for their return home and WFP provided them with a two-month food package. After their departure, only 1,095 internally displaced persons (IDPs) will remain in the camp.

(c) A joint WFP/UNFPA needs assessment mission took place in Lisala (Equateur province) on 2 September, focusing on the demobilization of children associated with armed forces and groups. WFP is planning to provide food to 152 demobilised children about to be admitted in the Association pour la Protection et l'Encadrement des Enfants (APEDE) transit/orientation centre. During the reporting week, 51 child soldiers including 11 girls, who had completed their three-month reorientation programme from APEDE, reintegrated into their families. In addition to food provision to support the demobilization of ex-child soldiers, WFP will also implement food-for-training (FFT) activities, which is much needed in Lisala as reported by the local authorities and 52 associations/NGOs in the area.

(d) In North-Kivu, despite last month's pipeline break in maize-meal and pulses in the eastern corridor, WFP released 56 tons to feed 3,200 participants in the food-for-work (FFW) activity implemented in Rutshuru. This project, supervised by the partner Programme International pour la Protection des Gorilles (PICG), aims at the conservation of the gorilla environment. In South-Kivu province, WFP provided some families of malnourished children with 200 tons of food in Kabare territory. However, while returning from the distribution site, several beneficiaries were harassed by gunmen who bullied them into handing over their rations, reported International Rescue Committee (IRC) the NGO, which managed the food distribution.

Eritrea

(a) Reportedly, humanitarian officials in Eritrea expressed uncertainty about how the probable departure of the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) would affect food security in Eritrea. A senior USA State Department and USAID delegation discussed food aid and other issues last week with the government and humanitarian officials. Diplomats and aid workers said the USA would take some time to make decisions on food aid policy in Eritrea, where two-thirds of the 3.6 million population were in need of food aid. US food aid to Eritrea comes from both USAID and the US Department of Agriculture, and is distributed through WFP, NGOs and the Eritrean government.

(b) EMOP 10261.1 did not receive any new contribution since the last update. However, an adjustment in the multilateral funds brings the level of resources to a total of USD 61,877,484 representing 83 percent of the operational costs required. The coverage of the food commodity requirements remains unchanged at 154,322 tons or 95 percent of food requirements. Coverage for the PRRO 10192.0 remains at USD 44.1 million representing 85 percent of operational requirements. The contributions registered under the PRRO 10192.1, whose implementation started on 1 September 2005, stand at approximately USD 42.6 million, representing 20 percent of the total cost of the project. The coverage of the food aid portion of the Consolidated Appeal Process (CAP) is at 79 percent.

Ethiopia

(a) Following previous reports on high malnutrition rates among the Sudanese refugee population in Fugnido and Bonga refugee camps in Gambella region, the situation has now improved greatly as a result of joint interventions by partners involved in the operation. By the end of August, nutrition screening in Fugnido camp showed global acute malnutrition rates (GAM) down to 11.6 percent and severe acute malnutrition (SAM) at 3.7 percent. This is an important improvement from the earlier GAM reported at over 20 percent. In Bonga camp, SAM rates have dropped to 0.3 percent from an earlier 2 percent. Eight children are currently under therapeutic treatment in the camp health centre. Following reports on high malnutrition rates, revealed by a joint nutrition survey undertaken in May by WFP, UNHCR and the government's Administration for Refugee and Returnee Affairs (ARRA), WFP rapidly transported fortified corn soya blend to the camps in order to start blanket supplementary feeding for children under-five and continue the targeted supplementary feeding programme for pregnant and nursing women. Three-month's food supply has been pre-positioned in the camps in order to avoid any delays in food distributions. UNHCR and ARRA have now ensured access to water in the Anuak part of Fugnido camp, where it was previously lacking, and Médecins sans Frontières (MSF) Switzerland has provided a provisional health and therapeutic feeding centre in the same location in order to treat the severely malnourished children. Food rations for October to December are now under dispatch to all refugee camps in Gambella region.

(b) In Tigray region, registrations of people from Eritrea have been increasing steadily at Shimelba refugee camp. Since January 2005 some 2,000 new refugees have arrived, most of them young men. The total population of the camp is now approaching 10,000 people.

(c) In Somali region, nutrition screening is underway for Somali refugees hosted in Kebrebeayah camp. The screening will be undertaken in order to admit moderately malnourished children for a targeted supplementary feeding programme and severely malnourished children for therapeutic feeding.

(d) The pipeline for WFP Ethiopia's refugee operation is sufficient until the end of 2005. However, new contributions are sought in order to maintain a full ration size for the refugees from the beginning of 2006.

Rwanda

(a) The voluntary organized repatriation of Burundian refugees continued with a total of 499 refugees (12 from Kigeme, 82 from Gikonko and 405 from Nyamure camps). The Burundian refugee population in the three camps is currently 4,250 or 10.5 percent fewer than a week ago.

(b) A total of 185 Congolese refugees repatriated voluntarily from Kiziba camp while the verification of refugees progressed well. Nyabiheke and Gihembe camps remained stable. In Nkamira transit camp, 88 people had to leave the camp because they were found not to be refugees. The total number of Congolese refugees currently sheltered in Rwanda stands at 42,015. The results of the on-going refugee verification exercise in the Congolese camps of Kiziba and Gihembe will be available in one week's time and a decrease in refugee numbers is expected.

(c) Food distributions took place in three refugee camps, namely Kigeme, Gikonko and Nkamira where 2,870 refugees received 144 tons of mixed food commodities.

(d) UNHCR, in cooperation with WFP and the Ministry of Local Government, continued the verification of the Congolese refugees in Kiziba and Gihembe camps. At Gihembe and Kiziba the operation is expected to end on 8 and 9 September respectively after which the refugee numbers will be reconciled and all litigation cases resolved. All refugee data will have been entered into the ProGres database of UNHCR and old food ration cards will be replaced by new ones with serial numbers for cross checking purposes.

(e) A total of 85 returnees crossed from DRC to Rwanda through Nyagatare and Nkamira transit camps. They were transferred to their home communities after receiving a one-month reduced returnee food package from WFP.

(f) The government-led joint June Crop and Food Assessment mission (CFAM) results indicate that the gross domestic cereal production in Season B is good but warns of pockets of potential food insecurity, particularly in chronically food insecure districts. The most vulnerable households in these districts may require food assistance during the hunger period (September-November) and through December. A good Season C harvest in September and October could mitigate the situation.

Somalia

(a) Tension is high in both Jowhar and Mogadishu. Early this week an unconfirmed number of militia troops, trained in Mustahil (Ethiopian border), reached Jowhar, the current seat of one faction of the Somali Transitional Federal Government (STFG). Communication from Jowhar to the outside world, including other parts of Somalia, has been cut off. The other faction of the STFG, who are based in Mogadishu, described the militia build up in Jowhar as an act of war. On 8 August, the UN relocated 13 UN international staff to Nairobi and Wajid. The UN Special Representative for Somali issued an appeal for conflict restraint from all concerned parties and is closely monitoring the situation.

(b) The WFP-chartered vessel, the MV Semlow, continues to be held despite an agreement reached on 5 August with community leaders on behalf of the hijackers and the TFG to allow for the release of the Semlow, its cargo and crew. The ten member crew is reported to be fine and the Captain of the vessel is in regular contact with the ship's agents, Motaku Shipping, in Mombasa. The majority of the food, 850 tons of rice, including 745.85 tons purchased from funds donated by Japan and the balance of 104.15 tons donated by Germany, is still on board.

Sudan

(a) DARFUR:

(b) Insecurity in Darfur is observed to be on the rise, with increasing number of attacks and looting incidents being reported every week. Furthermore, armed men have begun to target humanitarian aid workers, particularly in South and West Darfur, raising serious concern for the safety and security of both UN and NGO staff operating in the region.

(c) The UN Department of Safety and Security (UNDSS) continued to restrict UN movement along the roads between Geneina, Mornie, Habilah and Masteri, (West Darfur). They have been declared unsafe for movement without security support from the African Union (AU) Government of Sudan (GoS).

(d) Darfur continued to experience heavy rains during the reported week, particularly in Edd El Fursan in South Darfur where roads remain inaccessible. Ongoing rains have also rendered the Nyala-Mukjar road impassable while the deteriorating condition of the road between Nyala, Zallingie and Garsilla is presenting major challenges to WFP's deliveries to these areas.

(e) In August, WFP dispatched a total of 43,421 tons from logistical hubs to the three Darfur states, some 10 percent less than dispatches in July. Dispatches in August were challenged by a combination of factors. These included poor road conditions due to heavy rains, ongoing attacks on trucks and general insecurity in Darfur. Lack of primary transport capacity from Port Sudan also affected stock levels in the logistical hubs and the crippling jet fuel shortage that hampered much of WFP's required air deliveries.

(f) Between 1 and 4 September, WFP delivered 858 tons of food via airlifts and airdrops, representing 12 percent of the plan for September. Some 532 tons of food was airlifted from Al Khufra, Libya and these are included in this figure.

(g) WFP's efforts to increase non-cereal stocks in West Darfur were hampered by the jet fuel shortage as well as continued rains and overflowing wadis that have rendered many locations inaccessible by road.

(h) On 30 August, up to 2,600 individuals were evacuated from their homes in Bendisi, South Darfur, and currently taking refuge at schools, when a nearby wadi flooded. It is estimated that some 75 households have lost their crops in the area. There are concerns that the flooding may affect food delivery to Bendisi if water levels do not recede soon.

In the meantime, alternative distribution sites have been identified in the event that conditions do not improve.

(i) During the reporting week, WFP-Humanitarian Air Services (HAS) conducted approximately one-third of the planned airlifts and airdrops for the week. On 4 September, all airlift flights from El Obeid were cancelled due to the lack of fuel. WFP is expecting the arrival of additional shipments of jet fuel in the second week of September.

(j) On 31 August, WFP's partner Save the Children US, with the support of GoS and AU, successfully completed registration of IDPs in Geneina camps in West Darfur, including IDPs living in Geneina town and the satellite villages. Preliminary figures indicate that approximately 100,000 people were registered in all the locations.

(k) WFP and UNICEF are moving ahead with plans to initiate Food for Education programmes in the three states of West, North and South Darfur.

(l) Heavy wind and rainstorms damaged eight rubhalls in Geneina, West Darfur during the reporting week. The food was immediately transferred to unaffected rubhalls. WFP is planning to look into ways of reinforcing storage facilities.

(m) WFP will begin distributing full rations of food to 5,700 vulnerable residents in Al Mazroub, Jad El Sid and Abu Karenka in Adilla locality in an effort to reduce local tension between the IDPs and the residents. These villages have been cut off from assistance for several months due to insecurity in the area. Some 9,800 IDPs in Adilla will continue to receive food aid.

(n) As of 3 September, WFP faces a shortfall of USD 148 million, representing 26 percent of USD 562 million required for EMOP 10339.1. Urgent cash contributions are needed to repay outstanding internal loans of USD 27 million made to meet pressing food requirements during the rainy season.

(o) The Special Operation for logistics support in Darfur continues to face a shortfall of USD 22.8 million. One hundred long-haul trucks must be procured urgently to augment current logistics capacity.

(p) Following a recent contribution of USD 5.8 million from the USA, the WFP-HAS funding shortfall stands at USD 6.4 million out of total requirement of USD 24 million in 2005. With a monthly operating cost of USD 2 million, donor support is essential to allow WFP-HAS to continue providing services to the entire humanitarian community in Sudan.

(q) SOUTH, EAST AND TRANSITIONAL AREAS:

(r) On 31 August, gale-force winds in Port Sudan left over 1,700 houses damaged or destroyed. The roofs and walls of nine out of 26 WFP warehouses were also extensively damaged. Some 56,000 tons of food is in the process of being immediately transferred to

unaffected warehouses. A WFP team is in Port Sudan to assess the damage and respond accordingly. WFP is also planning to assist the affected population under an inter-agency approach led by the Humanitarian Aid Commission (HAC). Nutrition centres in Port Sudan were also badly damaged by the storm. However, the food remained safe and preparations are underway to transfer it to main stores belonging to Action Contre la Faim (ACF) in Port Sudan. Ongwab and Scanderia supplementary feeding centres were completely destroyed and partners have requested for tents to be erected for activities to continue undisrupted and support rebuilding initiatives. Activities continue in the Um El Gura supplementary feeding centre despite the destruction of the boundary walls. In Port Sudan, immediate response has been focused on reconstruction of houses and restoring power.

(s) WFP distributed approximately 96 tons of food to 7,689 registered flood-affected victims in Damazine, Blue Nile following a request from the HAC. Some 2,728 people who were most affected in Almosales, Alsubeir, Almak, received two-month half rations. Distribution of one-month half rations to 4,961 people who were less affected in the remaining six locations in Alfarodos and Alsowra garb will take place on 6 September.

(t) The UN Department of Safety and Security (UNDSS) and WFP completed the security assessment along the upper Sobat corridor in Upper Nile state during the reporting week. The team declared the area safe to access and WFP will resume the third phase of the barge operation along this corridor in the coming week.

(u) WFP's air deliveries faced serious challenges up to the last week of August and early September due to jet fuel shortages in the country. The lack of fuel in El Obeid also resulted in numerous cancellations of passenger flights. Airdrops and airlifts were also delayed or suspended at the height of the rainy season when road access to most areas is impossible. Only 1,678 tons was airdropped to the South from El Obeid throughout August.

(v) WFP's ability to dispatch food commodities to the logistical hubs in El Obeid, Khartoum and Kosti continues to suffer from the already stretched primary transport capacity in Port Sudan. In August, WFP's average dispatch rate for Sudan was 1,785 tons per day despite daily requirements of some 2,500 tons. WFP continues to look into ways of attracting more capacity from both the local market as well as from regional transporters.

(w) The River Transport Corporation (RTC) barge, carrying 280 tons of food, arrived in Malakal and offloading has been completed.

(x) WFP expects two shipments carrying 1,050 tons of food (yellow split peas) to arrive between 20 and 27 September. There are additional consignments amounting to 3,340 tons of CSB, lentils and vegetable oil in two bulk vessels for the emergency operation. However, exact arrival dates have not yet been established.

(y) WFP passenger and cargo flights continue to be affected by the rehabilitation of the Wau airstrip by United Nations Mission in Sudan (UNMIS). However, larger aircraft will be allowed to land once upgrades are completed.

(z) As of 4 September, EMOP 10048.3 valued at USD 302 million, has received USD 177 million, representing approximately 59 percent of the total operational requirements. Urgent contributions are immediately needed to repay outstanding internal loans of USD 34.7 million and borrowings made to meet pressing food requirements during the hunger season as well as for the expected return of refugees, particularly after the rainy season. Cash contributions are particularly required to enable the operation repay loans and for maximum flexibility.

(aa) To date, the Special Operation 10368.0 for emergency road repairs and mine clearance of key transport routes in Sudan in support of this emergency operation, has received a total of USD 71 million. With the recent approval of a USD 93 million budget revision, the special operation faces a staggering shortfall of USD 112 million out of USD 183 million total requirement. Urgent cash contributions are critical in order for ongoing repair works to be completed as well as to initiate Phase III of the operation during the dry season in November 2005.

(ab) WFP is also seeking support to augment barge capacity under the Special Operation (SO) 10412, emergency repairs and upgrading of rail and river transport infrastructure in support of WFP food aid operations in Sudan. The SO, valued at USD 23 million, has not received any contributions to date. The cross line barge operation that is due to take place in Upper Nile would also significantly benefit from donor support to this SO.

Tanzania

(a) A total of 8,999 refugees have voluntarily repatriated to Burundi between 1 – 21 August.

(b) WFP continues to distribute reduced food rations to refugees. In the current distribution cycle (29 August – 12 September), refugees are receiving 410g maize grain (or 380g maize meal), 80g pulses, 20g oil and 0g corn-soya blend (CSB). In the 12 September distribution cycle, the distribution of pulses will increase to 120g and refugees will be provided with 1,947 Kcal or 93 percent of the approved ration level. Although rations have increased during the last two months, they still remain below the minimum needed for healthy survival. Assuming timely arrival of incoming shipments, it is anticipated that between 86 - 93 percent of the normal ration can be provided between now and the end of November 2005.

(c) The tonnage distributed during the reporting period totals 1,097 tons. General food distribution continues to reach some 390,000 refugees. WFP continues to implement therapeutic, supplementary and camp-based hospital feeding with 100 percent ration levels. Due to resource shortages, however, food-for-work and food-for-training activities in the host communities surrounding the camps remain suspended.

(d) Despite recent donations from the European Commission, Netherlands, Germany and Belgium, there is a shortfall of 23,680 tons of food until the end of May 2006. In order to prevent a repeat of the serious ration cuts WFP had earlier this year, additional contributions are needed immediately.

Uganda

(a) The security situation in northern Uganda remains unpredictable. The Lord's Resistance Army (LRA) rebels continue to move in small groups in Gulu, Kitgum and Pader districts. As a result, the military offensive against the insurgents has continued. It was reported that LRA rebels attacked Dzaipi sub-county in Adjumani on 30 August, looted food, clothes and household items from four households. A civilian bus was attacked in Pader district on 3 September.

(b) WFP, together with UNHCR, Office of the Prime Minister (OPM) and NGO partners, has completed a revalidation registration exercise of refugees in 66 settlements in eight districts in Uganda. The exercise commenced in early 2005.

(c) WFP food distribution continues to reach 1.4 million displaced persons, 192,000 refugees and other vulnerable persons. During the past week, WFP distributed 3,492 tons of relief food assistance to 293,438 persons including IDPs sheltering in camps in Gulu, Kitgum, Pader and Lira districts, refugees, children in nutrition centres and other vulnerable persons.

(d) WFP faces a shortfall of 21,310 tons of food commodities (15,010 tons cereals, 2,800 tons pulses and 3,500 tons fortified blended foods) with a funding gap of USD 12 million, required to maintain the food pipeline necessary to continue providing relief assistance to IDPs and refugees through December 2005. Unless new contributions are confirmed urgently the nutritional status of 1.4 million internally displaced persons in northern Uganda, mostly women and children, will be jeopardized.

West Africa

Cameroon

(a) On 5 September, WFP approved Emergency Operation (EMOP) 10474 to assist 237 000 people for one month in Cameroon's Logone and Chari division affected by serious food shortages due to poor and irregular rains during the 2004-2005 agricultural season.

(b) The months of August and September are the peak of the rainy season. It is also the "hunger season" when households find it extremely difficult to get food supplies. Prices of food in local markets are very high. Households are borrowing 50 kg of maize from traders promising to repay 100 kg at harvest time. Many households are forced to sell or consume crops before they fully mature. Most of them will have almost no food stocks by the harvest season in October to December. If nothing is done within the next few weeks to reverse this trend, production in the next agricultural season will be at risk.

(c) According to health officials, the health and nutritional situation of population is poor. Health workers are seeing many malnourished children and adults. Cases of malaria and

respiratory infections are also very high. The situation could also negatively affect school attendance in the province which already has low attendance rates. Parents are saying that they cannot afford to pay the cost of schooling for their children. The little money they have is being used to feed themselves.

(d) In May 2005, responding to a request from the Government of Cameroon, WFP provided 870 tons of cereals to 72,500 beneficiaries in three subdivisions of Logone and Chari. In June the Government of Cameroon distributed 1500 tons of maize to 25,500 households in the six remaining sub-divisions of the province .

Chad

(a) The overall security situation remains fairly calm in the refugee camps and border areas of eastern Chad with no major incidents to report. Night patrols from 21.00-06.00hrs by the police and gendarmerie have started in Abéché to improve security in the city. Reports of abuse and harassment against humanitarian workers have, however, increased since the start of the patrols. The Governor is meeting with concerned authorities to tackle this issue. The security situation is fairly calm in southern Chad with no major incidents to report.

(b) The WFP/UNHCR targeted caseload for the next distributions has increased to 199,916 refugees following the regularisation of some 700 persons in Kounoungou and Mille camps and family reunifications in Goz-Amir and Djabal camps.

(c) With regard to WFPs Emergency Operation (EMOP) in support of Central African Refugees in Southern Chad, on 3 September 2005, the caseloads are approximately 16,000 refugees in the Yaroungou camp and a total of 23,443 refugees in the Amboko camp. The latter includes 13,821 'old refugees' and 8,779 new arrivals. Another 843 persons are currently being transferred to Amboko and are expected to receive WFP food rations. There were reports of an influx of some 2,000 additional refugees during the reporting period. The group is yet to be verified by UNHCR, who is currently in search of a new site to host new arrivals.

(d) September distributions commenced in southern and central camps during the current week and will start in northern camps from 19th September. A complete food basket will be provided which provides 2,070 Kcal/person/day.

(e) Following the visit of the UN High Commissioner for Refugees, the Chadian President requested the relocation of Am Nabak and Oure Cassoni camps due to their proximity to the border. UNHCR and the Ministry of Interior are working jointly to identify new potential sites.

(f) ACF and Premiere Urgence are expected to present their preliminary findings of the Post Distribution Monitoring exercise during the current week.

(g) In their endeavours to coordinate food distributions on both sides of the border, WFP Abéché and El Geneina offices have shared their respective distribution plans. UNHCR

has provided the necessary statistics regarding the villages of origin of the refugees currently in the camps.

(h) Under the Blanket Supplementary Feeding (BSF) programme, WFP assisted a total of 3,350 children under five in the Djabal camp with some 15 tons of CSB, Veg Oil and Sugar. Due to an improvement in the global acute malnutrition rates in the camp (15%), confirmed by Cooperating Partner COOPI, it has been decided to suspend the BSF. The already existing Supplementary and Mother & Child Health (MCH) programmes will continue as usual.

(i) With regard to WFPs Emergency Operation (EMOP) in support of Central African Refugees in Southern Chad, general food distributions commenced in Amboko camp on 2 September, targeting a total of 23,443 beneficiaries with some 290 tons of cereals, pulses and veg oil. In the Yaroungou camp, WFP supplied some 2.44 tons of CSB and 0.19 tons of sugar to a total of 136 women and children under the supplementary feeding programme. General food distributions are scheduled to commence in Yaroungou camp on 15 September and will target 16,000 beneficiaries with some 160 tons of cereals, 28 tons of pulses and 10 tons of veg oil. The rations are sufficient to cover 25-day requirements. As part of the Tripartite Agreement between WFP, UNHCR and African Concern, a number of new local staff was recruited on August 30th to take charge of food distributions.

(j) IRD (International Relief & Development) is proceeding with the identification of Blanket Supplementary beneficiaries in the villages of the Kobé Department (Iriba). The first distribution is scheduled to take place next week in the canton of Ourba and will target a total of 3,367 beneficiaries. BSF distributions will continue for local populations in the Bahai zone in cooperation with ACTED (Agency for Technical Cooperation and Development).

(k) In Guereda, the distribution of Seed Protection Rations has been postponed pending further sensitisation of refugees by the distribution partners.

(l) In Farchana, WFP supplied approximately 75 tons of food to a total of 200 persons under Food-for-Work (FFW) for the planting of some 22,000 trees in Hadjer Hadid and Adre. The project was implemented with the support of AGS Japan. Discussions are underway between WFP and the Chadian Red Cross to initiate a FFW project involving the rehabilitation of the airstrip in Goz Beida.

(m) There has been very little activity on the Libyan corridor due to the continued closure of all main roads by the government until the 1st of October. A WFP convoy (Convoy S001) carrying a consignment of 770 tons of Sorghum via the eastern road has arrived in Bao, north of Bahai, to supply northern camps. On the Douala corridor, some 250 tons of Salt, 416 tons of CSB and 4 tons of Beans have been dispatched from Ngaoundéré, and are currently moving towards N'Djamena. The rainy season continues to pose difficulties of accessibility, mainly to southern camps and sometimes to central camps. Northern camps have been more easily accessible during the past week.

(n) With regard to WFPs Emergency Operation (EMOP) in support of Central African Refugees in Southern Chad, 32.8 tons of CSB has arrived via the Douala corridor. WFP expects to receive some 500 Mt of maize meal, which have been dispatched from Ngaoundéré. WFP completed the installation of a rubhall (warehouse) in Gore with a storage capacity of 500 tons for the Amboko camp.

(o) The overall nutritional situation in the refugee camps is improving according to latest reports by cooperating partners. The Chadian Red Cross in Goz Beida warned that the situation of Hepatitis E in the Kerfi canton ought to be monitored attentively. A meeting will be held between the various humanitarian actors during the current week to follow up on this issue.

(p) With regard to WFPs Emergency Operation (EMOP) in support of Central African Refugees in Southern Chad, the overall nutritional situation is relatively stable in both refugee camps. In the Amboko camp, a recent nutritional screening (weight/height and MUAC) conducted by COOPI indicated that there were 6 cases of moderately malnourished children among a total 243 screened.

(q) With regard to WFPs Emergency Operation (EMOP) in support of Central African Refugees in Southern Chad, late confirmations of contributions and arrival of commodities are posing difficulties to WFP regular food distributions. Additionally, the recent influx of approximately 10,000 new refugees has increased the needs by some 900 tons (US\$ 800,000); a budget revision has been prepared to take this increase into account. The Emergency Operation (EMOP) requires urgent attention from donors to allow WFP to meet the additional food requirements of new arrivals under the budget revision.

(r) During the reporting week, WFP HAS transported a total of 181 passengers to the destinations of Abéché, Iriba, Bahai, Guereda, Farchana, Goz Beida and N'Djamena. For the month of August WFP HAS served a total of 484 passengers on the N'Djamena-Abéché routing (UN 21W) and 713 passengers on the Abéché-eastern strips routing (UN 23W).

Guinea

(a) During the reporting period (22 August – 4 Sept), more than 25,000 people received 370 tons of WFP food. This included 24,000 refugees who continue to live in refugee camps in Guinea.

(b) On 25 August, an incident in Kola camp interrupted the campaign organized by UNHCR to distribute temporary refugee status certificates to the residents of that camp. A confrontation between a security agent who caught a refugee attempting to commit fraud, led the crowd waiting their turn to react violently by throwing stones to the security agents as well as at UNHCR and WFP monitors

(c) During this reporting period no refugees were voluntarily repatriated as the convoys have been temporarily cancelled due to the poor condition of the roads. Since the beginning of the repatriation campaign in November 2004, around 15,700 Liberians have returned home. Progress has been slower than planned resulting in a higher refugee caseload than anticipated

Liberia

(a) During the reporting period (30 August – 5 September), nearly 270 tons of food were distributed to more than 13,000 people. This included the distribution of 28MT of commodities to 2,950 IDPs in the Kingsville IDP Camp in Montserrado County as part of the August food ration distribution. Assistance to flood victims was also completed, with the last 309 beneficiaries receiving WFP food rations. Heavy rains had caused flooding in central Liberia early this month destroying several homes affecting 160 families and leaving 1,019 people homeless. WFP food assistance was a part of the humanitarian community's response to the disaster.

(b) Distribution of the first and second tranches of a two-month food ration to returnees and IDs was made to complete the four-month resettlement food package continued during this reporting period in Grand Cape Mount, Bomi, Nimba, Lofa and Grand Bassa Counties. A total of 7,800 beneficiaries received 230 tons of assorted food items. Heavy rains and the resulting bad roads halted the distributions of the second tranche food to Returnees and IDPs to three districts in the Central county of Bong.

Niger

(a) WFP, the National Food Security Mechanism (DNP-GCA) and NGO partners are collaborating to reach 3 million people in urgent need of food aid. Of these 3 million, WFP food will reach 1.8 million beneficiaries and the rest will be covered by the National Food Security Mechanism (DNP-GCA), PLAN International and Catholic Relief Services (CRS) pipelines.

(b) WFP, the Government and NGO partners are collaborating to identify additional equally vulnerable villages, especially those with high malnutrition rates. Nomadic herders that have lost all or part of their livelihoods will also be targeted. These additions would be mostly handled by DNP-GCA stocks but could also be handled by WFP stocks left over from other distributions due to overestimated beneficiary numbers. Please note that this would not reflect an increase in WFP beneficiary numbers or tonnage for the first round.

(c) WFP's selective feeding activities include supplementary feeding for malnourished pregnant and nursing women, supplementary feeding for malnourished children and a protection ration for the families of malnourished children who are receiving treatment in UNICEF-supported centres. The rationale behind the protection ration is that it will prevent the division of the child's treatment ration among the entire family (as it is frequently administered in out-patient programmes where the children are only monitored by NGOs once a week).

(d) WFP's Emergency Food Security Assessment (EFSA), which will tentatively start next week, has the principal objective of evaluating the current food security situation in Niger and the outlook for the next 3-6 months. The EFSA will also complement the UNICEF/Centre for Disease Control nutritional assessment with a food security perspective and contribute to the WFP/FAO Crop and Food Supply Assessment Mission. A technical steering committee composed of: FEWS Net, Agrhymet, Institut National de la Statistique (INS), CARE International, the National Early Warning System (SAP), FAO and the World Bank has been established to guide the development of the EFSA. One meeting has already been held and another will take place on Friday to discuss the methodology.

(e) WFP is collaborating closely on the UNICEF/CDC nutritional survey which is also taking place in September. WFP and UNICEF are discussing how to ensure that the two samples overlap at village level or even at the household level. The number of households surveyed for the food security survey does not need to be as large the number surveyed for the nutritional survey.

(f) WFP rolling assessments are continuing in the region of Maradi, including nomad camps in the Tarka valley. The situation of the nomadic herdsmen is quite critical. Since November/December 2004, the herdsmen have progressively lost their herds due to the effects of the drought and locusts on pasturelands. As the cereal prices increased, the herdsmen were forced to sell off their remaining, weakened animals to purchase food.

(g) WFP has thus far dispatched over 17,000 MTs of food for the first round of general distributions; enough food to feed over 1 million people . Including these dispatches, EMOP dispatches to date come to a total of 22,311 MTs. Of the 17,000 tons dispatched, NGO partners have already reported back on the distribution of 8,220 tons which have been distributed to 454,007 beneficiaries. These actual distributions and beneficiary numbers are based on Cooperating Partner (CP) reports. The transport of commodities to final distribution sites (FDPs) is being strengthened by the positioning of IFRC trucks in Tahoua and Tillaberi. In addition, for Tahoua sub-office, WFP is placing 2 WFP trucks (one 20 tons, one 10 tons) as well as two IFRC cargo trucks (semi-trailers). The IFRC trucks that drove up to Niger from the port of Cotonou are currently in Niamey undergoing maintenance and mechanical checks before being sent out to the field on Saturday.

(h) Although the dispatch rate from the Lome port is satisfactory, there are some delays at the Burkina Faso-Niger border, for trucks leaving Burkina and entering Niger. WFP is working with its forwarding agent to try to expedite the passage of WFP food.

(i) A post distribution monitoring exercise (PDM) was conducted in six villages in the zones of Ouallam and Kokorou (Tillaberi) after the distributions by ABC Ecologie and HELP. It was found that the 85% of adults in the villages were women as most of the men have left to try to make money in towns or neighbouring countries. The lack of men in the village could have a negative effect on the area of land planted. Coping strategies

of the population include taking out loans and harvesting part of their fields before the millet is mature. The households interviewed said the general distributions were well timed in this regard as they are not forced to prematurely harvest their crops due to hunger or to take out further loans.

(j) WFP's Humanitarian Air Service (SO 10481) began flying on 29 August and flights operate four days a week between Niamey, Maradi, Zinder, Tahoua and Agadez. The flight schedule is restricted due to repairs to the Niamey runway. Since 29 August, the WFP HAS performed nine flights transporting 106 passengers (45 WFP, 16 UN, 14 donors, 7 Government and 24 NGO staff) and 505 kgs of humanitarian cargo. Contributions are urgently needed for this special operation (SO) which has a budget of 321,000 US dollars.

(k) The Niger Emergency Operation (EMOP) 10398.0 requires a total of 57.6 million US dollars. Overall, the operation is 57% funded, having received 33 million US dollars in contributions. The current shortfall is nearly 24.6 million US dollars.

Sierra Leone

(a) During the reporting period (1-31 August), WFP distributed 666 tons of food to more than 70,000 beneficiaries in Sierra Leone. This included distribution of rations to nearly 45,000 refugees living in refugee camps, as well as more than 2,500 people in Pujehun District who were affected by flooding.

(b) In the wake of the floods in Pujehun district, some 7,000 people across ten of the twelve chiefdoms in the district were left homeless. The floods are reported to be the worst to hit Sierra Leone in 45 years. In response to the displacement of thousands of people, WFP, in collaboration with other UN Agencies and the Sierra Leone Government through the Office of the National Security and the National Commission for Social Action, conducted a joint inter-agency assessment and verification, which facilitated food distribution and other basic supplies to the affected population.

(c) Training for the Mother and Child Health and Nutrition (MCHN) project has been completed in Tonkolili, Koinadugu, Kambia, and Kailahun, which are the operational districts. WFP's preventive intervention involves providing food support to Peripheral Health Units (PHUs) for women starting their fourth month of pregnancy until delivery. It also includes nursing women with children aged 0 to 5 months, and children below 2 years of age. Food assistance to the Health Units, for malnourished children below 5 years, forms part of the project's curative intervention. A total of 164 Staff from various PHUs and District Health Management teams were trained on the implementation of the MCHN project. The training was facilitated by the Ministry of Health and WFP.

Southern Africa

Angola

(a) WFP is urgently appealing for USD 6.2 million, or 9,400 tons of food to complete distributions through the end of March 2006.

(b) Since the beginning of 2004, WFP's operations in Angola have been critically underfunded due to a lack of donor support. At the beginning of September, WFP drastically cut rations due to a shortage of funding. In September, half cereal rations will be distributed to General Food Distribution beneficiaries. Unless new donations are immediately available, WFP will have to further reduce cereals and pulse rations.

Lesotho

(a) In September WFP is planning to distribute 2,400 tons of food to 169,900 beneficiaries through cooperating partners. Approximately 60 percent of distributions are targeting vulnerable households in four districts of the Southern Lowlands and Senqu River Valley, while 40 percent will cover the remaining six districts. Distributions will target vulnerable and chronically ill patients in HIV/AIDS and tuberculosis clinics and their families.

Malawi

(a) The price of maize in 15 markets across southern Malawi has risen by an average of nearly 50 percent in the last few months, sparking fears that humanitarian assistance will need to be increased over the months ahead as poor households struggle to afford to purchase maize.

(b) Due to the rising cost of maize, WFP plans to increase its beneficiary numbers from 1.6 to 2 million, and is ready to further increase this number if prices continue to rise. The government, other non-governmental organizations, and DFID will support the remaining 2.2 million people who will need food assistance or cash interventions.

Mozambique

(a) Maize prices are increasing across Mozambique. Compared to 2004, maize prices in Xai-Xai (Gaza Province) are 30 percent higher and in Chokwe (also Gaza Province), prices increased by 38 percent.

(b) WFP is currently reaching just over one-third of the 430,000 people who are in immediate need of assistance in the provinces of Maputo, Gaza, Inhambane, Sofala, Manica and Tete. These provinces have been hardest hit by the country's fourth successive year of drought. From November onwards, the number of people in need is expected to increase even further.

(c) In addition to the funding gap and rising maize prices, WFP is extremely concerned about the outlook for the coming planting season. Dams in southern Mozambique are much lower than last year's levels. While the average percentage of stored water during the March to June period in 2003/4 was 85 percent of the total volume, the average for the same period this year is only 28 percent. The Maputo River is already dry in some areas.

(d) Southern Mozambique harvested 43 percent less cereals this year due to the prolonged dry spell during the growing season. The outlook for the next harvest is also

bleak, with water levels in all southern rivers at their lowest in two years – at around 28 percent of capacity.

Swaziland

(a) In the dry Middleveld, approximately 2,450 hectares of land has been tilled in preparation for next year's agricultural season. According to the Ministry of Agricultural, extension officers report land preparation was facilitated by August rainfall. Plans are underway to grow subsistence crops, including maize, cotton, sweet potatoes and beans.

Zambia

(a) Due to a lack of funding and commodities, WFP is providing food assistance to approximately 35 percent of vulnerable beneficiaries in the south of the country. People are already resorting to eating wild fruits and plants due to maize shortages and increased market prices of grain.

Zimbabwe

(a) A decline in the food security situation was reported in most districts across Manicaland Province as food availability and access continue to be an issue. While Grain Marketing Board (GMB) distributions took place in Buhera District, the sharing of a 50-kilo bag between two families remains the norm. Although the official price of a 50-kilo bag of maize is listed at ZMD39,000 transport costs are inflating the price from ZMD60,000 to 90,000. (The UN rate of exchange for September is currently ZMD24,500:USD1) Non-beneficiaries continue to throng distribution points serving home based care, orphan and vulnerable children beneficiaries in anticipation of receiving leftovers as well as to plead for assistance.

(b) The price of maize continues to increase in most districts and is attributed to increased transportation costs. In rural areas, with the exception of Mashonaland Province, maize grain remains unavailable. In Bulawayo, basic commodities like bread, sugar and milk continue to be scarce on formal and parallel markets. Long queues for these commodities continue around shops in the city.

(c) While the water situation improved in the high-density suburb of Bulawayo, it remains critical in three other areas as residents continue to get water from friends and relatives in neighbouring suburbs.

(d) Regarding the urban dwellers affected by the government's "Operation Restore Order", discussions continue between the UN Country Team and the government in order to reach an agreement on an operational framework that would permit the provision of temporary shelter, food, water, sanitation and health care to those remaining in "the open". Meanwhile, assistance efforts continue with IOM, supported by WFP food aid, reaching nearly 80,000 people in August. WFP field monitors continue to review the conditions of those affected by the operation throughout the country.

(e) Schools reopened across the country on 6 September. However, the school feeding programme was unable to begin as WFP continues to wait for confirmation from the Ministry of Education, Sports and Culture regarding an alternate food basket comprised of cereals, pulses and oil. The use of corn-soya-blend was suspended in May following concerns of discolouration and over-fortification of some stocks.

Asia

Indonesia

(a) A commercial flight operated by local carrier Mandala Airlines, carrying 112 passengers and 5 crew members, destined for Jakarta crashed in Medan during takeoff on 5 September. The Governor of North Sumatra (HE Rizal Nurdin) and former Governor of North Sumatra (Mr. Raja Inal Siregar) were amongst the victims of this incident.

(b) No UN staff were reported to be among the victims. On 25 August, UN3 Dash 7 airplane contracted by UNHAS hit a post at the Gunung Sitoli Airfield on Nias Island. All 8 passengers on board are reported to be safe and unharmed. The plane was temporarily grounded for inspection by maintenance.

(c) Several meetings with WFP Cooperating Partners were held to discuss the criteria for WFP food assistance from October to December. The purpose was to both improve targeting, and reduce the possibility of dependency on food aid. The IDP data developed by the Government agency BPDE (Badan Pengelola Data Elektronik), indicating the number of IDPs in tents, barracks and with host families, will serve as the basis for WFP's food aid targeting.

(d) WFP Calang sub office has temporarily suspended food deliveries and missions to K-Sabbe, Panga and Teunom areas due to a broken bridge, 4 kms outside Calang. WFP Calang will resume activities once the bridge has been repaired.

(e) Currently WFP is operating 3 activities namely, General Food Distribution (GFD), a School Feeding Programme (SFP) and a Maternal Child Nutritional Programme (MCN). GFD will target only the more vulnerable groups over the coming months resulting in a gradual decrease of the number of beneficiaries; meanwhile supplementary feeding activities that promote recovery activities will expand their areas of operation. The September planned beneficiary number for General Food Distribution stands at 734,000 in 18 districts in Aceh and North Sumatra. The planned beneficiary number for the School Feeding Programme (SFP) in September is 379,000 in 10 districts in Aceh Province.

(f) The September delivery of food by Save the Children (general food distribution) has started for Aceh Utara, Lhokseumawe, and Bireun. For Aceh Timur the food has been dispatched from the WFP warehouse in Medan to the PMI warehouse in Langsa-Aceh Timur. PMI will start the distribution this week in Aceh Timur supporting 15,000 IDPs. GFD for September in Banda Aceh, Aceh Besar, Pidie, and Sabang Island is underway, reaching some 276,000 beneficiaries. Currently three cooperating partners namely CARE, World Vision (WV), and SC are distributing in these four districts. WFP targeting

criteria for the households in the few remaining IDP camps on Nias have been identified. The September distribution covering some 4,700 IDPs in the camps will be assisted by WFP general food distribution.

(g) During 29 - 30 August, 40 tons of food has been sent to Reuntang-Sampoiniet in Aceh Jaya for some 2630 beneficiaries in 8 villages from Calang warehouse. The food commodities had to be handed over to the each head of village for further distribution at their respective villages (distribution could not be carried out at the distribution point due to the heavy rain). On 30 - 31 August, food distribution took place in Lhok Kruet in Sampoiniet sub-district in Aceh Jaya. About 1,891 beneficiaries from 12 villages received food. On 1- 2 September, some 55 tons of food for 3,746 beneficiaries were delivered to Lamteungoh (Suak Beukah) in Sampoiniet. Currently Keumang, a local NGO is assisting the general food distribution in this sub district. On 1 September, WFP commenced September distribution in Setia Bakti sub-district in Aceh Jaya, covering 2829 beneficiaries. WFP is planning to complete the delivery to Setia Bakti sub-district by 6 September.

(h) The delivery of food for the School Feeding programme in Lhokseumawe and Aceh Utara has been completed by the contractor, covering 25,000 beneficiaries in Lhokseumawe and 76,000 in Aceh Utara. In Bireuen, biscuits will be dispatched from Medan to Keumang, WFP's cooperating partner in the district.

(i) The first distribution for the School Feeding in Bireuen has commenced in partnership with Keumang. The first cycle will cover some 63,000 primary school children in Bireuen. This expansion resulted in an increase of the overall number of planned School Feeding beneficiaries to 379,000 in September.

(j) A total of 72 schools are planned for the monitoring visit in September in Banda Aceh, Aceh Besar, and Pidie covering 22,000 primary school children and teachers who benefited from the School Feeding Programme. In those three districts, WFP has three local partners – Keumang, Al Amin, and Muhammadiyah. During the reporting period (25 August – 7 September), monitoring activities took place in Setia Bakti sub-district, and SDN Rigah.

(k) As of 31 August, full allocations of rice for Banda Aceh and Lhokseumawe have been taken from the Bulog Warehouse. With this, a total of 6,571 tons has been collected for August distribution. The remaining balance for Medan (totaling 1,438 tons) will be collected in October. For the month of September, WFP is planning to take 8,382 tons of rice from Bulog. This is part of WFP's local purchase of rice from Indonesian Government totaling 44,127 tons until December.

(l) After a visit of an independent survey team in Malahayati investigating the extent of infestation of BULOG rice, Banda Aceh sub office has finished the fumigation process for the warehouse in Malahayati and the stock will be available for dispatch by the end of this week. WFP warehouse in Medan has also completed its fumigation.

(m) During the reporting week LCT Labitra Hanny loaded mixed food commodities for Simeulue and Nias from Malahayati in Banda Aceh. A variety of Non-Food Items were also loaded.

(n) As a cost saving measure, WFP Banda Aceh has started dispatching rice directly to NGO from Bulog in Medan. Another measure adopted for cost saving is transferring the cargo from truck to truck. Four containers carrying Hesco Bastion goods (security fencing) destined for WFP Banda Aceh are scheduled to arrive in Belawan port in Medan on 16 September 2005.

(o) Currently UNHAS is operating 2 Mi-8 helicopters, 2 Twin Otters (based in Banda Aceh and Medan), and 1 Dash 7 (40 passenger capacity) for passenger service. Air assets are occasionally used for delivery of Non Food Items (NFIs).

(p) WFP has a 300 ton capacity Landing Craft Labitra Hanny operating in Aceh for delivery of food commodities to inaccessible parts of the west coast and the offshore island. Sukses 3, an 800 ton dead weight LCT chartered by WFP HQs in Rome is arriving Banda Aceh later this week.

Korea (DPR)

(a) With the arrival of cereals, WFP is able to assist all core beneficiaries during the critical pre-harvest lean season in September and October. However, due to resourcing shortfalls up to 3 million out of the targeted 6.5 million beneficiaries will be affected by cereal ration cuts from September to December. These include Food-for-Work (FFW) participants, elderly people, poor urban households and primary school children who would receive take-home rations.

(b) The shortfall of oil, which began in March, is still severe and up to 2.7 million elderly people, pregnant/nursing women and children in nurseries, kindergarten and hospitals will be without this vital commodity up until December. Moreover, all beneficiary groups are without pulses in September.

(c) Sixteen out of 19 WFP-supported Local Food Production factories were operational during the reporting period. The Pyongyang Biscuit factory No.2, Huichon Cereal Milk Blend factory and the Hyesan Biscuit factory had stopped production due to issues relating to distribution plans. Production for the last week of August was 913 tons or 120% of the weekly EMOP's requirement. Visiting WFP staff informed all biscuit factories that due to resourcing shortfalls the percentage of dried-skimmed milk (DSM) needs to be reduced from 10 to 8 percent in the biscuit recipe. With this slight adjustment, current stocks of DSM will be sufficient to maintain production until the end of the year.

(d) DPR Korea wants the WFP to shift the focus of its aid from food supplies to development projects

Myanmar

(a) Due to numerous pipeline breaks in the past six months caused by government-imposed transport restrictions into Northern Rakhine State (particularly rice), WFP received complaints from the beneficiary population, particularly from food-for-work participants who have already completed their work and not yet received their food rations. These delays have unfortunately coincided with high prices for rice in local markets and a general unavailability of rice, further aggravating the conditions of the vulnerable families. However, as some of the restrictions have been resolved, rice has started to flow into the project area and distributions of those who have not yet received food for work they have carried out will begin this week.

(b) In Northern Rakhine State, WFP has finalized beneficiaries selection exercise for vulnerable group feeding for a total of 35,500 vulnerable individuals from the poorest of the poor population. Food distribution started for 1,300 beneficiaries last week. In total, WFP distributed 140 tons of food in Northern Rakhine State and 250 tons of food in Magway, under the Protracted Relief and Recovery Operation (PRRO) 10066.2 operation.

(c) A number of field level agreements with NGO partners have already been signed for Emergency Operation (EMOP) 10345.1, namely with World Vision, AMDA, ADRA, World Concern and REAM, a local NGO.

(d) During the reporting period (26 August – 7 September) a European Commission delegation visited Myanmar to assess their support assistance programmes. During their visit to Myanmar, member of EC delegation also visited EC-supported WFP project areas in Magway Division in central Dry Zone.

Nepal

(a) Seven months after the Royal coup, the security situation continues to deteriorate, and the prospects of meaningful negotiations in the near future seem bleak. In rural Nepal fighting and blockades continue to hamper WFP operations. In August, most significant was a Maoist attack on an army post in the remote mid-western mountain district of Kalikot. The King visited mid and far western regions of Nepal after the clash. This visit prompted an increase in the number of small bomb explosions in Nepalgunj – principal town in the area, some of which detonated close to the WFP Sub-Office. Two WFP field monitors were seriously threatened and harassed by the RNA and by CPN/M during the reporting period – another indication of a bleak security situation.

(b) The food security monitoring in 32 Districts of Nepal where WFP implements development activities did not show evidence of a general deterioration in food security during the last monitoring cycle (May-June 2005). However, the late monsoon rains this year appear likely to adversely affect the yields of crops that are currently under cultivation.

(c) Within the current political and security context, WFP Nepal has updated and activated its contingency plan by launching a Special Operation (Emergency Preparedness – Mounting Operational Stand-by Capacity in Nepal) in order to better

respond to the current situation (i.e. a slow-onset deterioration of the “development/operational space”). This Special Operation will increase WFP’s Operational stand-by capacity in terms of non-food emergency prepositioning and storage/transport capacity.

(d) The Nepal Country Programme endeavours to continue to implement its four development activities. However, the security situation negatively affects the government counterparts’ ability to operate and hence the level of implementation. It is expected that the Country Programme will reach approximately 70% of the plan in terms of delivery.

(e) WFP is undertaking a poverty mapping exercise with the World Bank and the Government of Nepal. A Comprehensive Food Security and Vulnerability Analysis which will help provide a tool for refining the targeting mechanisms for the Country Programme and measure progress of MDGs indicators was started at the end of August.

(f) The Country Office received a 2.5 million USD multilateral donation. Confirmation of 1.5 million USD is still awaited. The Bhutanese Refugee Operation is funded up to end November 2005. The Special Operation is 64% funded. A Consolidated Appeal Process (CAP) will be launched in October in Geneva in order to fund an appropriate humanitarian response to the current conflict.

Sri Lanka

(a) On 22 August, Anura Bandaranaike, brother of Sri Lanka's President Chandrika Kumaratunga, was appointed Foreign Minister, replacing Lakshman Kadirgamar who was recently assassinated. On 26 August, Sri Lanka's Supreme Court ruled that President Chandrika Kumaratunga's term would end in December, paving the way for elections to be held.

(b) On 31 August, the LTTE rebels rejected the government offer to hold crucial talks in Sri Lanka. LTTE’s rejection came a week after the Government refused to accept Norway as the venue for the talks to review an increasingly fragile truce, arguing that the rebels would use a foreign location to promote their bid for autonomy.

(c) Food-for-Education (FFE) workshops on School Feeding and its methodology for government counterparts, FFE coordinating teachers, as well as WFP officials, will be conducted from the end of September onwards. These training sessions will provide guidelines on the implementation procedures and monitoring of the programme, discuss and explain the roles and responsibilities of the counterpart officials, as well as the procedures of expansion of the School Feeding programme in new areas.

(d) WFP is currently operating four types of activities: General Food Distribution (GFD), Food-for-Education (FFE) activities, Mother Child Nutrition (MCN) activities and Food For Work (FFW) activities. To date, WFP Sri Lanka has provided food to some 904,800 people through its General Food Distribution since January 2005. WFP is planning to feed 785,400 people in September. From October, Vulnerable Group Feeding (VGF) will

replace GFD, reducing targeted distribution to 350,000 beneficiaries by 31 December 2005.

(e) As part of the regular food aid monitoring programme, beneficiary households and final distribution points, including multi-purpose cooperative societies' retail outlets, schools and clinics were visited in the EMOP districts during the reporting period (25 August – 7 September). In some districts, pre-assessments were carried out at food-for-work project sites.

(f) For the second round of GFD, 785,400 people are eligible for food aid. Due to delays in beneficiary selection and insecurity in certain locations, distribution has commenced later than expected – i.e. in August. At the beginning of September, distribution for the last two coupons had already started in a few districts. Distribution in the majority of districts will continue until the end of September.

(g) Due to school holidays in August, only 850 children in one school in Hambantota district were covered by Emergency Operation (EMOP) Food-for-Education (FFE) activities. From 5 September onwards, 102,000 children will be covered by WFP EMOP school feeding. Among these children, 40,000 children in 154 schools receive mid-morning meals and 62,000 children in 224 schools receive fortified biscuits.

(h) Some 143,600 people are benefiting from Mother and Child Nutrition (MCN) activities. An organized MCN programme will commence on 15 September and continue until December, including the training of health staff in all medical divisions. Based on findings in Jaffna district regarding low attendance of children between 3-5 years, it has been decided – besides increasing awareness at household level – to distribute CSB at the pre-school level.

(i) There have been 102 Food-for-Work (FFW) projects approved in tsunami affected areas and started operating from the end of August. During the implementation period of three months, WFP will provide some 7,600 tons of mixed food commodities to some 183,000 beneficiaries (36,600 participants). The first distribution of canned fish donated by the Chinese Government took place on 6 September in Trincomalee.

(j) The Cash Transfer Pilot Project (CTPP) is scheduled to begin in October. The chief researcher from IFPRI (International Food Policy Research Institute) is now preparing a proposal with WFP and a Project Manager has been hired to implement the project. The target areas shall be determined shortly. The first Steering Committee Meeting, with participation of partner NGOs is scheduled for 12 September.

(k) Problems with infestation (particularly for CSB) are being addressed. Alternative warehousing, a quality control consultant, and fumigation contracts are being arranged. A new contract for the management of the truck fleet is expected to be in place from 10 September 2005, following which re-allocations of trucks to Field Offices will be confirmed. WFP currently has a fleet of nine HINO trucks of 5 tons capacity each and two Man trucks of 7 tons capacity.

(1) On 29 August, the second meeting of the UN tsunami working group focused on capacity building. As a result, the UN Humanitarian Information Centre (HIC) will compile information on all ongoing and planned UN capacity building activities in tsunami affected districts in order to improve coordination and collaboration in the framework of the four strategic objectives of the UN Transitional Strategy. UN Ambassador Lakhdar Brahimi, Special Adviser to the UNSG arrived in Colombo on 2 September on a six-day mission. On the same day, the UN Deputy Special Envoy for Tsunami Recovery, Eric Schwartz, arrived in Sri Lanka to see the impact of tsunami on people's lives and the progress of the recovery.

Latin America and Caribbean

Bolivia

(a) The Departments of Beni, Pando and Santa Cruz have started to feel the effects of this year's drought, which is particularly affecting the livestock. According to preliminary reports, in the Department of Beni, it is estimated that 10,000 cattle have died, so far. This loss accounts for some 17 million dollars, affecting 810 families in the Provinces of Cercado, Mamoré e Iténez. In the northern part of the Department of Santa Cruz, a cold spell caused the death of some 4,000 cattle.

(b) WFP together with the Civil Defence will carry out a joint assessment mission from 08 to 11 September to evaluate damage and estimate the number of families at risk of food insecurity.

(c) During the past week, 124 tons of food aid was delivered to some 1,134 families in the North of Charagua, where the fourth Emergency Operation (EMOP) distribution was completed. In this area, the current drought has affected the harvests once again, with an estimated loss of 80 to 100 percent.

(d) In the Municipalities of Machareti and Huacaya, located in the Department of Chuquisaca, 178 tons of food was distributed to 2,049 families. In this area, the harvest has been slightly better than in the last years, with around 50% yield.

Colombia

(a) New displacements have been reported in the Province of Antioquia, where at least 150 people from rural areas and small villages in the Municipality of Ituango were forced to flee due to threats issued by a major illegal armed group with a strong presence in the region. Initial reports indicated that the illegal group warned the inhabitants about a coming increase in clashes and retaliations. The displaced people are temporarily sheltered in an abandoned warehouse in Ituango waiting for humanitarian assistance. Last week, some 250 peasants from rural areas of San Francisco and Cocorná were also forced to flee by the same illegal armed group. WFP has implemented emergency food aid activities in this region as part of the Protracted Relief and Recovery Operation (PRRO) 10158 and 10366.

(b) On 29 August, a WFP team visited the community of San Jose de Apartadó (Province of Antioquia) in order to review and evaluate a recent census performed by the local office of UMATA (Colombian Fishing and Mining Technical Assistance Unit) that will evaluate intervention possibilities and the blockade that this community is apparently facing. The mission was carried out by WFP, UMATA and the Colombian Social Solidarity Network. In the coming days, UMATA will review the census results as families from other municipalities were also included.

(c) Clashes between illegal armed groups and the Colombian army have been reported in different areas of Antioquia. At least 14 rebels were killed and more were severely injured in clashes which occurred in rural areas of the Municipalities of San Carlos, Remedios, Caicedo and Briceño. More clashes were also reported in nearby areas of the Sierra Nevada de Santa Marta (Provinces of Magdalena and Cesar).

(d) Between 31st August and 2nd September, WFP delivered emergency food aid reaching 1,161 people (258 families approximately) of the indigenous communities of Peñas Blancas, Jagual, Marcial and the communities of Pavas and Taparal (Province of Antioquia). The food was distributed to these communities in the Municipality of Riosucio (province of Antioquia).

(e) Between 2nd and 4th September, WFP delivered 85 tons of emergency food aid to more than 4,950 people (some 925 families) located in 16 rural areas of the Municipality of Orito, province of Putumayo. The purpose of this special delivery was to provide food assistance to people who are still affected by blockades and clashes between illegal armed groups and the Colombian Army. Four weeks ago, some 1,500 members of a major illegal armed group carried out an offensive in Putumayo affecting the normal distribution of food and other supplies. This emergency food delivery was coordinated jointly by a special WFP team sent to the area and the Colombian Social Solidarity Network with the support of the local Catholic Church in the Municipality of Orito.

(f) On 1st September, WFP delivered 50 tons of emergency food aid to more than 3,000 people located in 13 neighbourhoods and 3 rural areas of the municipality of Tierra Alta, Province of Cordoba. The purpose of this special delivery was to provide food assistance to the people that were severely affected by the recent rainy season in this province. This emergency food delivery was coordinated jointly between the WFP office in the Province of Sucre, the Colombian Social Solidarity Network and CORSOC, a local NGO.

Cuba

(a) In spite of the recent rains in August, the drought persists in the Provinces of Camaguey, Holguin and Las Tunas. During mid August, until the end of October, more hurricanes are expected to affect Cuba during the period mid-August to the end of October.

(b) Food stocks for Emergency Operation (EMOP) 10423.0 and 10473.0, already purchased by the WFP, are currently at the Havana Port waiting to be transported by the Government to assist vulnerable groups. Some 430 tons of refined soya oil; 780 tons of

rice and 760 tons of black beans belong to EMOP 10423.0 while 93 tons of refined soya oil; 360 tons of rice and 183 tons of black beans were for EMOP 104736.0.

Ecuador

(a) Last week government authorities, oil companies and the Orellana and Sucumbios Biprovincial Assembly, finally settled the signed agreement which ended the strike. Oil production returned to normal last week.

(b) During recent days, volcanic activity at the Tungurahua volcano included low emissions of steam, gas and ashes. It is important to warn nearby population about possible changes in the volcanic activity. The cloudy weather does not allow an in depth monitoring.

(c) Distribution of food rations will start this week in Sucumbios as the situation after the strike has returned to normal. Food distribution in the Provinces of Pichincha, Imbabura, Carchi, Emeraldas, Azuay and Guayas finished last week.

Guatemala

(a) According to a press report based on interviews of health service professionals, malnourished children of the community of Chorti, located in the Eastern region of the country, are more affected by diseases during the rainy season. More than a hundred children were hospitalised for treatment and recovery during the last three months. WFP food aid is provided to this group of children.

(b) Crop losses in Chichicastenango, in the northern part of the country, were reported as a result of continued heavy rains and winds. The Ministry of Agriculture is providing food aid to the most affected communities to ensure food availability at household level.

(c) A total of 47 tons of maize, beans, CSB, and vegetable oil were distributed in the Province of Chimaltenango, undertaking asset creation activities to mitigate the effects of shocks. This food distribution will benefit a total of 1.447 families (7.235 beneficiaries).

Haiti

(a) The security environment continues to be relatively stable. However, the situation remains volatile with an increase in the number of kidnappings. In Port-au-Prince, in general terms, incidents targeting MINUSTAH/HNP continue to be registered, particularly in Cite Soleil. During the reporting period, three cases of population violently neutralizing bandits were reported in Port-au-Prince. This "community" self-justice (lynching) has been condemned by MINUSTAH and the new Chief of Haitian National Police requested the population to hand over the alleged gang members to the relevant authorities.

(b) The number of registered voters has now passed 2 million and some 455 registration centres are operational, including the mobile units in sensitive areas such as Cite Soleil. The deadline for registration remains 15th September 2005.

(c) The current security situation continues to have an impact on WFP office and sub-office operations. Administrative, monitoring and logistic activities continue to require escorts due to the volatile situation in some areas, while restrictions apply in certain areas of Port-au-Prince such as Cite Militaire and the area around SHODECOSA (main WFP's warehouse location). The transfer of commodity containers from the terminals to WFP warehouses continued, thanks to the positive response to a WFP request for an increased presence of MINUSTAH on the relevant routes.

(d) The number of Haitian migrant workers expelled back to Haiti from the Dominican Republic continues to increase. UN Police reported that some 370 Haitians were forcefully expelled from Dominican Republic through Belladere (Plateau Central) border area. Moreover, 170 Haitians were expelled from Dominican Republic between 23rd and 25th August, through Ouanaminthe (North East) border area. The media stated that more than 2,000 Haitians were expelled in the last 4 weeks.

(e) On 31st August, Lt. Gen. Urano Teixeira da Matta Bacellar assumed official control over the 7,600 MINUSTAH forces during a ceremony attended by special U.N. envoy to Haiti, Juan Gabriel Valdes, and other diplomats.

(f) On 31st August CIVPOL was renamed UNPOL as per UN Security Council decision.

(g) During the reporting period (September 2-9), a total of 378 tons of food were delivered to health centres and schools (PRRO and CP) in the West, North and North-East departments and Port-au-Prince and to the various implementing partners of PRRO activities in the North-West and Central Plateau.

(h) The establishment of school gardens in different schools in the North-Eastern Department is being assessed. Food-for-Work (FFW) will be used in support for this activity. Cooperation with FAO is under consideration for this project.

(i) The total food stocks in the country are estimated at 6,764 tons, of which 4,672 tons are in WFP warehouses and available for distribution, while over 2,092 tons remain at the port.

Peru

(a) On 29th August, the government of Peru through INDECI (Civil Defense Institute) declared an Emergency situation in the province of Satipo, located in the Department of Junin, due to a big forest fire affecting 30,000 hectares of forest. The fire is burning between 50 and 100 hectares per day. INDECI, for the first time, is requesting OCHA fire fighting aircraft to support the intervention. Approximately 5350 people have been affected (loss of lands, respiratory infections, intoxication, and others).

(b) To date, only one distribution for the third quarter (507 tons of full basket of commodities) has been distributed - to approximately 46,000 beneficiaries in the regions of Puno and Apurimac.

(c) An extension in time for 3 months has been recommended for Emergency Operation (EMOP) 10393.0 to allow the completion of the distribution, considering that local purchases have delayed distributions due to high prices in local markets

(d) Shortfalls persist for EMOP 10393. Only 55% of the project has been resourced until now

(e) 90 tones purchased from Bolivia are in Desaguadero (Bolivia frontier with Peru), ready to be transported into Peru to complete the EMOP basket