
World Food Programme Emergency Report 2005
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(A) Highlights

- (B) Middle East, Central Asia and Eastern Europe:** (1) Afghanistan (2) Occupied Palestinian Territories (3) Pakistan
- (C) East & Central Africa:** (1) Burundi (2) Congo, DR (3) Ethiopia (4) Kenya (5) Rwanda (6) Somalia (7) Sudan (8) Tanzania (9) Uganda
- (D) West Africa:** (1) Cote d'Ivoire (2) Guinea (3) Liberia (4) Niger
- (E) Southern Africa:** (1) Angola (2) Lesotho (3) Malawi (4) Mozambique (5) Swaziland (6) Zambia (7) Zimbabwe
- (F) Asia:** (1) Indonesia (2) Korea (DPR) (3) Maldives (4) Myanmar (5) Sri Lanka
- (G) Latin America and Caribbean:** (1) Bolivia (2) Colombia (3) Cuba (4) Ecuador (5) Guatemala (6) Nicaragua (7) Peru

(A) Highlights

- (a) To date, the WFP Niger Emergency Operation has reached nearly 3 million beneficiaries, having distributed 53,947 tonnes.
- (b) Reports indicate an alarming emerging drought situation in south Somalia.
- (c) In Pakistan, the total caseload reached during December is 383,000, with a total of 5,567 tons dispatched.
- (d) In Sudan, between 1 and 11 December, WFP dispatched a total of 3,029 tons of assorted food from logistical hubs to the Darfur region.
- (e) In Southern Africa, vulnerability assessments conducted in May 2005 have revealed high levels of food insecurity, with an estimated 10 million people in the region requiring humanitarian assistance; this number has now grown to approximately 12 million. The latest food security assessments indicate that growing numbers of households in southern Malawi, Zimbabwe and parts of Lesotho, Mozambique, Swaziland and Zambia are facing critical food shortages.

- (B) Middle East, Central Asia and Eastern Europe:** (1) Afghanistan (2) Occupied Palestinian Territories (3) Pakistan

(1) Afghanistan

- (a) The security situation remained relatively calm across the country except in the traditional troubled southern and south-eastern regions during the reporting period (8 – 14 December). A suicide bombing in Kandahar killed two civilians on 11 December. Another bomber was killed in a blast in the northern Mazari Sharif province on 14 December.
- (b) An earthquake measuring 6.6 on the Richter scale hit the north-eastern Badakhshan Province on 13 December. Preliminary reports indicate no human casualties and minimal property damages. FOCUS, an international humanitarian organization and WFP Cooperating Partner, carried out assessments in five districts close to the quake

zone and reported no losses. Due to unconfirmed reports of damages in Kala, a village in Munjan district, FOCUS team is currently evaluating the area. WFP is closely monitoring the situation and will respond with food assistance to the victims based on the recommendations of the assessment.

- (c) During the reporting period, WFP assisted 325,500 beneficiaries with 2,750 tons of food throughout the country.

(2) Occupied Palestinian Territories

- (a) There has been no improvement in the security situation in either the West Bank or the Gaza Strip.
- (b) In terms of Institutional feeding, the distribution to West Bank institutions was completed in all governorates by CRS (a total of 110 institutions). Institutions previously covered by UNWRA IF programme were assessed for compliance with WFP programme criteria prior to inclusion in the WFP caseload. The General Distribution to SHC through MSA was completed in all West Bank governorates (September- October allocation). Preparations for the next distribution round are ongoing. 80% of beneficiaries at the distribution point were female, 70% of HH entitlements were found to be issued in the woman's name.
- (c) CRS, CHF and MOA started implementation of Food-for-Work/Food-for-Training (FFW/T) activities throughout the West Bank; in some locations, local committees are still in the process of setting work plans and selecting beneficiaries. Monitoring of local committee formation, targeting and effective work planning was conducted daily.
- (d) In the Gaza Strip, nine Institutional Feeding centres received their November-December allocation. MSA completed its General Distribution of the November – December allocations in the south and in the middle governorates; Northern Gaza and Gaza City distributions are ongoing. The new ration will be implemented in the Gaza Strip from January 06.
- (e) MOA FFT projects are ongoing in all governorates, and FFW has started in Khan Younis governorate. In the remaining governorate planning is still ongoing. CHF have developed a beneficiary database to assist in cross-checking lists of beneficiaries to avoid duplication between CPs and other agencies (UNRWA). This database will be shared with MOA in GS.
- (f) The Bedouin report writing and analysis is ongoing jointly between WFP/IMG. A meeting was held in Jerusalem to review progress to date.
- (g) During the reporting period (1 – 15 December), a total of 1498 tons were delivered to the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

(3) Pakistan

- (a) The total caseload reached during December is 383,000, with a total of 5,567 tons dispatched.
- (b) The preparation of the Protracted Relief and Recovery Operation (PRRO) is continuing. The PRRO mission started during the reporting period (7 – 13 December), and will include field visits (e.g. Balakot, Battagram) and meetings with all the relevant stakeholders (e.g. Ministry of Education, FAO, World Bank, UNDP, UNICEF, Donors).
- (c) WFP focuses on difficult to reach areas (blue area) and food distribution in camps, tented schools, hospitals and supplementary feeding for children < 5, pregnant and lactating women. The shifting of Cooperating Partners to the new areas of operation continued, with many partners now being ready to start distribution in the respective areas.

- (d) In Bagh, the Cooperating Partners are distributing 2-3 months rations in their areas of operations. The delivery of a two month ration (for Nov/Dec) has been completed for Behdi. Cooperating Partner GOAL has pointed out that WFP allocation for Thob union council covers only 14,122 persons against an official current population of 26,096 persons in seven main villages. WFP is in the process of updating the number of beneficiaries per Tehsil.
- (e) In Ghari Habibullah, landslides occurred on the Kaghan road, resulting in a disruption of food deliveries for two days. Roads into highland areas of the Kaghan valley expected to be accessible till 20 – 22 December. Food distributions are on-going in Mahandri and Kawai while the remaining 30 percent of the three months rations are being delivered. In Kaghan food rations for three months were delivered and distributed.
- (f) In Muzaffarabad, roads to the Neelum Valley have been closed due to the earthquake that occurred at 2:45 a.m. on 13 December 2005.
- (g) A new administrative structure has been set up in the Battagram sub-office following the arrival of additional WFP staff.
- (h) The Emergency Operation (EMOP) is resourced 46,68% against the appeal. This does not take into account the contribution of 46,000 tons of wheat by the Government of Pakistan, which has not been officially received yet. There is a shortage of vegetable oil.
- (i) Special Operation (SO) 10493, "WFP Logistics Support to Relief Operations for the Pakistan Earthquake" is resourced at 43% against the appeal; UNHAS SO 10494 is resourced at 35% against the appeal; UNJLC SO 10495 is resourced at 81% against the appeal
- (j) Since the start of the operation, UNHAS has airlifted 3,969 tons of food, 1,442 tons of non-food items (NFIs) and 11,260 passengers.
- (k) Dutch and Irish Ministers visited Bagh along with the WFP Pakistan Special Envoy and had briefings with WFP and heads of UN agencies besides visiting a WFP distribution site in Birpani union council under the ARC area of operation. An ECHO Delegation visited WFP in Islamabad and went for a two-day field visit.

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

(1) Burundi

- (a) Malaria remains a great concern in the Northern provinces, mostly in Ngozi and Kayanza. It was reported that the disease claims many deaths amongst the poor population unable to pay for medical treatment. The disease is also spreading in Kirundo province, which also hit by food shortage. Malaria is another important factor that will negatively impact on the already fragile food security in these areas.
- (b) In the Northern provinces, the household level of food reserves remains very low. The active populations have adopted various coping mechanisms, including temporary migration for casual labour.
- (c) WFP met with the local authorities in Makamba province to sensitise them on the targeting process and criteria. Local authorities were informed that every family with a malnourished person attending feeding centres must be included in beneficiary list for targeted distributions.
- (d) Between 5 and 11 December, WFP distributed 1,258 tons of food aid to 223,870 beneficiaries.

(2) Congo, DR

- (a) The Bukavu–Bunyakiri route (South Kivu province) remains unsafe due to frequent attacks on civilians by Front Démocratique pour la Libération du Rwanda (FDLR) rebels; an attack in Kaniola resulted in the kidnapping of two boys and one girl. The boys were later released while the girl was forced to remain. Humanitarians are not allowed to undertake missions to the area unless escorted by United Nations Mission in the Democratic Republic of Congo (MONUC).
- (b) UNHCR organized convoy for 50 Congolese returning from Betou, Republic of Congo (RoC). On arrival in Gemena, en route to their villages of origin in Equateur Province, WFP provided three-month food rations to the returnees.
- (c) Due to limited stocks, the WFP Kindu office prioritised food delivery to therapeutic and supplementary feeding activities. Some 24 tons of food was delivered to ADRA for its nutritional feeding programmes.
- (d) In Goma, WFP, through five cooperating partners (NGOs), distributed 45 tons of assorted food to 2,635 persons infected/affected by HIV/AIDS.
- (e) In Bunia, Cooperazione Internazionale (COOPI) registered 338 new cases of malnutrition, 26 child soldiers, and identified 41 victims of sexual violence for whom WFP will provide food assistance. Of the 109 tons distributed during the week, COOPI received close to 2 tons for its programme in the transit centres for child soldiers.
- (f) A humanitarian mission visited Kitutu (South Kivu) to evaluate the situation since ACTED halted nutrition interventions in 2004. ACTED is considering returning to the area, because malnutrition has risen to over 10 percent.
- (g) In South Kivu, out of the 115 tons of food delivered by WFP during the reporting week, 42 tons are benefiting the school-feeding programme.

(3) Ethiopia

- (a) Humanitarian coordination meeting of Somali Region took place on 13 December in the regional capital of Jijiga. The issues on the agenda included updates on the current situation of the region and on the regional early warning system. In addition, the agencies present gave updates on their operations for the past few months. The below-normal performance of the on going Deyr (short rains) season was the core of the discussions and the regional Department for Prevention and Preparedness Bureau was encouraged to prepare a multi-sectoral response plan to facilitate a possible humanitarian response. Key areas needing close follow-up and assistance are the water, food security and livestock. The situation is reported to be especially worrying in the Afer and Liban zones, where the two past rainy seasons have been below normal. Livestock migration has been observed in particular from Dolo Odo and Moyale districts of Liban zone and from Kenya to Filtu and Hudet districts of Liban zone that have received moderate rains. Livestock migration across the border from northern Somalia and Puntland to Warder zone has also been observed. The current Meher/Deyr seasons needs assessments will provide a definitive status report on the situation of the region and the extent of food and water problems. The region is urged to request the federal government to carry out nutrition surveys.
- (b) This week, the teams debriefed on the main findings of the pre-harvest "meher" (main season) multi-agency emergency needs assessment for Tigray, Amhara and Oromiya regions. In general, the food security outlook for 2006 is estimated to be positive in most crop growing areas of the country and improved compared to earlier due to an overall good performance of "meher" rains. Positive trends were noted for land preparation, yield estimates and pasture and water availability in most areas. The onset of rains was mostly on time and cessation normal.
- (c) However, in important pocket areas of the country, below normal and or erratic rainfall,

extended dry-spells or adverse weather conditions have reduced harvest prospects and may negatively impact on the food security situation later in 2006. Areas where “meher” rains have not performed well include lowland areas of East and West Hararghe, Guji, Arsi and East Shewa zones of Oromiya region, as well as in dry midland areas of the same region. In Tigray region, poor harvest prospects were noted for pockets in lowland areas of Southern and Eastern zones, especially in districts bordering Afar region, due to dry spells and early cessation of the rains. In Amhara, rains were inadequate, erratic and ceased early in some pocket areas of North-Shewa, North-Wollo, Weg-Hamra.

- (d) Debriefings from the assessments undertaken in pastoral areas, mainly Afar and Somali region, and for Gambella and Beshangul regions will take place next week, as fieldwork is currently being completed. Results from assessments in Southern Nations, Nationalities and Peoples Region (SNNPR), where a new methodology integrating livelihood approaches has been tested are planned at the end of the week. Meanwhile, the FAO/WFP Crop and Food Supply Assessment Mission has also returned from field and debriefings were held last week. Forecasts for crop production are estimated as positive, except in pocket areas, and good conditions for livestock were found in most areas. The main objectives of these two assessments were to assess population in need of external food aid assistance and estimating the 2005 main rainy season crop production and food supply for 2006.

(4) Kenya

- (a) During November, WFP distributed 12,678 tons of food to 1.1 million beneficiaries under general food distributions and food-for-work (FFW) in 17 drought-affected districts. This included food provided to 200,000 school children under the expanded school feeding programme of the EMOP. Some food deliveries to North Eastern Province were delayed for a few days following heavy rains that rendered the roads impassable.
- (b) The short rains season has so far been extremely poor in the north-eastern pastoral districts, and rainfall distribution in the eastern marginal agricultural areas is 30 percent below normal. Significant livestock deaths have been reported due to lack of water, pasture and browse. Rates of child malnutrition rates are alarmingly high in several north-eastern districts. While immediate food needs for the worst-affected households will likely be met and a catastrophic situation avoided, livelihoods have been lost. Substantial livestock mortalities suggest that the pastoral livelihood will take a much longer time to recover, accentuating growing chronic food insecurity.
- (c) The Kenya Food Security Steering Group (KFSSG) projects a significant food security crisis for the first 6-months of 2006. Populations requiring food aid assistance are expected to increase significantly from the 1.1 million beneficiaries currently receiving general food rations under the emergency operation.
- (d) A joint WFP/UNHCR nutrition mission took place in November in both Dadaab and Kakuma camps. The main objective of the mission was to identify underlying factors to the high levels of macro and micro nutrient deficiencies in the camps. The mission found that hygiene and care practices, environmental health as well as the health infrastructure, ill health and inadequate food due to the sale of food for essential non-food items, were contributors to the high malnutrition rates among the refugees. They recommended both preventive and curative approaches to address the nutrition issues.

(5) Rwanda

- (a) The number of Congolese asylum seekers in Nkamira transit camp decreased from 1,144 to 1,123 as 21 of them voluntarily returned to DRC. The number of refugees in

Nyabiheke, Kiziba and Gihembe camps remained stable at 4,664, 17,205 and 17,248, respectively. The number of Congolese refugees in Rwanda is currently 40,240.

- (b) No voluntary repatriation of Burundian refugees took place. In Kigeme and Nyamure camps the number of refugees remained stable at 728 and 1,905, respectively. The number of Burundian refugees in Rwanda is currently 2,633.
- (c) A total of 115 returnees from DRC crossed the border to Rwanda and were hosted in Nkamira transit centre. They received around 6 tons of mixed food commodities before departing to their home communities. At Gicumbi transit camp, 174 returnees arrived from Uganda. In anticipation of more Rwandans returning from Uganda, some 27 tons of food – enough for about 500 returnee rations - were pre-positioned in Gicumbi camp.
- (d) In Kibungo and Umutara provinces the crop developed well in areas with good rains, especially beans, maize, cassava and sorghum. However, in Ndego farmers received rains only twice and their crops either did not germinate or wilted completely. Farmers failed to prepare their sorghum fields at the end of November mainly due to lack of seeds. In other sectors with insufficient rains the drought has persisted leaving the area without any crop, pasture or water. Some people moved to Uganda for employment as casual labour.
- (e) Rainfall was below normal in Butare Province, which could negatively affect beans. The price of beans increased from 200 Rwf/Kg last month to 220. In Cyangugu-Gikongoro and Kibuye, prices are still at normal level compared to last season.

(6) Somalia

- (a) Large parts of southern Somalia received disappointing rains in the Gu rainy season earlier this year, resulting in failed harvest and stressed grazing areas. The current Deyr rains are also in general very poor and unevenly distributed, while insecurity is increasing in a number of districts. With the exception of patchy and localized showers, Hiran, Bakol and Bay regions received less than 20 percent of their normal rainfall. For most of Gedo region, where populations have been facing chronic food insecurity for the past 4 years, no rains were reported during October – November 2005. Field reports confirm that shortages of water and pasture in traditional grazing areas in the Juba valley and Gedo Region have resulted in unusual movement of people and livestock towards Juba River.
- (b) Malnutrition rates in many parts of southern Somalia are already unacceptably high, up to 20 percent in some areas. In addition, persistent insecurity and renewed civil strife and tension in the south are further stressing the coping options of the populations to the breaking point, and this will lead to acute food shortage and hunger until at least the next Gu harvest of July-August 2006.
- (c) As the trend of poor rainfall of the Deyr season is continuing, the worst case scenario is becoming a reality and at least some 400,000 of the 640,000 people in Southern Somalia who are at risk of a major humanitarian emergency and hunger crisis, will need food aid at the end of this year. Hardest-hit are the chronically food-insecure regions of Gedo, Bakol, parts of Bay, Hiran and Middle and Lower Juba.
- (d) The minimum food requirements for Somalia for the period December 2005 till June 2006 was estimated earlier at 21,000 tons of cereals, pulses, vegetable oil and blended food. This figure will increase dramatically to between 48,000 - 64,000 tons, as an extra 27,000 to 43,000 tons are needed to respond to the humanitarian crisis in South Somalia. The stocks in the country as of late November 2005 are 1,100 tons with another 15,600 tons in Mombasa Port, in transit or in the pipeline. Therefore, there are urgent unmet requirements of 31,000 – 47,000 tons till June 2006.
- (e) Following considerable piracy off the Horn of Africa that closed WFP's usual supply

lines over sea, WFP announced on 5 December 2005 the arrival in Wajid town, Bakool region, southern Somalia of a convoy of 17 trucks carrying 500 tons of food aid after an arduous 1,200-kilometre drive from the Kenyan port of Mombasa. It was the first overland convoy in almost five years and it had to overcome 25 militia checkpoints inside Somalia. WFP immediately distributed some of the food to 720 internally displaced people and returnees on the edge of Wajid. It is 25-30 percent cheaper to bring food aid in by ocean freight and boats can carry much more at one time, but land transport is essential, as ship-owners are unwilling to sail without an armed escort. These challenges occur when the humanitarian situation is deteriorating. For the north, Djibouti has been identified for potential overland transport.

- (f) Monthly food distributions to the tsunami-affected caseload in Somalia have resumed in December after being halted temporarily in November due to a depletion of stocks in Bossaso following the spate of hijackings and subsequent unwillingness of vessel owners to move ships without armed escorts. Bossaso will now be supplied via the ports of Djibouti and Berbera, in northwest Somalia in order to avoid the piracy routes from Mombassa, Kenya along the coastline of central Somalia. WFP Somalia will continue to support some 30,000 tsunami-affected beneficiaries who will be absorbed into the ongoing country Protracted Relief and Recovery Operation (PRRO) starting in January.

(7) Sudan

- (a) Darfur:
- (b) A convoy of WFP contracted trucks was attacked by armed gunmen on 11 December in Jebel Marra, West Darfur. The gunmen shot at the vehicles, which were returning empty from a delivery, fatally injuring one of the drivers. No other injuries were reported. In a separate incident in the same locality, two commercial trucks were looted by armed men who took mixed goods, personal effects and money, although again without reported injuries.
- (c) Heavy fighting was reported between the military and armed rebel forces near Masteri during the week. All road and air missions to the area have been suspended as a result.
- (d) Armed militias were meanwhile reported in the vicinity of the border town of Kongo Haraza on 6 December. Humanitarian activities were disrupted and all NGO staff in Beida, Arara and Kongo Haraza evacuated to El Geneina the following day.
- (e) Two separate incidents of looting of commercial vehicles were reported in South Darfur on 6 December. In both cases personal possessions and goods were looted from the vehicles. Four people were injured in one of the attacks.
- (f) Between 1 and 11 December, WFP dispatched a total of 3,029 tons of assorted food from logistical hubs to the Darfur region realising eight percent of the delivery target for the month.
- (g) The average dispatch for the period is 276 tons per day, which is again a reflection of the low stocks available. WFP plans to internally loan the Darfur operation cereals currently stored in logistical hubs and assigned to other projects in Sudan. The loan will guarantee continued dispatches of cereals into Darfur and will be repaid by commodities that are expected to be cleared from Port Sudan in the coming week.
- (h) Between 1 and 11 December, WFP airlifted some 12 tons of food to El Geneina against the month's dispatch plan of 200 tons. During December, better than expected road deliveries and improved access has reduced the anticipated need to rely on airlifts.
- (i) WFP-HAS's passenger flights to and from Darfur remain heavily booked. The helicopter service likewise remains in frequent use, particularly in West Darfur, where insecurity continues to prevent humanitarian access to a number of locations by land.

- (j) Preliminary results from the recent WFP/FAO Crop and Food Supply Assessment mission for northern Sudan (including Darfur) were released recently. The ongoing harvest season is characterised by better than average conditions such as well distributed rainfall, an increase in areas of cultivation and improved access to agricultural inputs. Crop production is expected to be better than last year and close to the ten-year average. Expectations of a good harvest are reflected in the drop in sorghum prices to around 50 percent of the record high of 12,000 SDD for a 90kg sack experienced earlier in 2005. Current prices still remain well above average, however, largely due to substantial increases in agricultural labour costs. The mission warned that this, coupled with a shrinking supply of labour, might encourage farmers to harvest a lesser proportion of their crops. The final report for the Crop and Food Supply Assessment Mission, as well as that of the Annual Needs Assessment, will be released in January 2006.
- (k) During the reporting period (8 – 14 December), World Relief released results of its food and nutrition assessment report carried out in Azirni, Sanidadi and Um Tagouk, West Darfur in September. Findings of the assessment revealed GAM and SAM prevalence rates 18.6 and 5.6 percent respectively. The results indicate a rise in malnutrition over a similar survey conducted in March. The rise would be concurrent with the time of year the recent survey was taken, during the lean period just prior to the harvest. The under-five mortality rate meanwhile was given at 0.91 in every ten thousand per day. The most common diseases among under-fives were watery diarrhoea and respiratory tract infections. WFP and World Relief plan to analyse the findings to see how they relate to broader surveys carried out earlier in the year.
- (l) In North Darfur, ACF reported a decline in weekly admissions to its therapeutic and supplementary feeding centres in Abu Shouk and moved to home-based treatments for severely malnourished cases that have no underlying medical complications. A slight rise (5 percent) was reported in net admissions to ACF's supplementary feeding centre in Kabkabiya while admissions to the therapeutic feeding centre remained stable. Admissions were also reported to remain stable in GOAL's supplementary feeding centre in Kutum, where there were no admissions to the therapeutic feeding centre during the week.
- (m) ACF released results of the recently conducted nutrition survey in Abu Shouk and El Salaam camps. GAM and SAM prevalence were recorded as 18.5 and 1.4 percent respectively in under fives, which offers a significant improvement over results of a similar survey conducted in June this year. MSF-E meanwhile finished a survey in Zam Zam camp with results expected in the coming week.
- (n) WFP visited Lwadib school for girls (to the northeast of El Fasher, North Darfur) on 4 December, which is one of the schools benefiting from the recently launched food for education pilot in the state. In total, 10,500 pupils in 26 schools in the state are each currently receiving a daily meal under the scheme. Meanwhile in West Darfur, WFP and UNICEF are planning a food-for-education workshop in anticipation of the launch of Food-for-Education (FFE) programmes in the state.
- (o) During the reporting period in West Darfur, around 153,000 beneficiaries in Mornie, Kulbus and Kerenik received food for December realising 67 percent of the month's target.
- (p) Food distributions in Korma, Malha, Malit and El Fasher town, North Darfur began during the week where almost 78,000 beneficiaries received 1,500 tons of food. In Kutum North, Kutum Hashaba and Dar Zaghawa, partner GAA distributed over 1,200 MT to 61,000 beneficiaries.
- (q) Meanwhile in South Darfur, WFP and partner WVI began the delivery and distribution of 1,750 tons to 88,620 registered beneficiaries in Kalma camp. During the week,

Samaritan's Purse secured an escort from the African Union for a convoy of relief supplies (including WFP food) to Feina and Sabon El Fagour. This comes after a two month suspension due to insecurity in the area.

- (r) As of 13 December, WFP's Emergency Operation (EMOP 10339.1) in Darfur had received a total of US\$436 million. Cash contributions of US\$28 million are urgently needed to repay outstanding loans.
- (s) The WFP-HAS Special Operation (SO 10181.3), valued at US\$24 million in 2005, faces a funding shortfall of US\$6 million. With monthly operating costs of US\$2 million, donor support is vital to allow WFP-HAS to continue to provide services to the humanitarian community in Darfur and throughout Sudan.
- (t) WFP is expecting the arrival of two additional shipments of cereals in December and January. Timely arrivals of these commodities will mean that the previously anticipated break in the Darfur cereal pipeline in January 2006 will be avoided. An internal loan of cereals from other operations in Sudan will be accessed to ensure a continual supply in Darfur in the interim. Current stocks of non-cereals are expected to cover requirements up until April 2006.

(8) Tanzania

- (a) In the General Food Distribution, WFP continues to distribute reduced food rations to refugees. No CSB is being distributed, while rations of pulses are reduced to 80g/day. The rations provide refugees with a daily intake of 1,813 Kcal, or 86 percent of the approved ration level. The current rations will continue to be applied until 2 January 2006.
- (b) A total of 7,759 refugees have voluntarily repatriated to their home in November. Of these, 4,934 refugees were Burundians, which is about half the number of Burundian repatriants in October (10,068). Conversely, the voluntary repatriation of DRC refugees increased to 2,825, compared to 1,111 in August.
- (c) General distribution covers 352,525 registered refugees. During the past week, WFP distributed some 1,170 tons of food through general distribution, supplementary and therapeutic feeding in refugee camps in western Tanzania. Around 8,350 food insecure and otherwise vulnerable Tanzanians in the host communities surrounding the camps were also supported with WFP host community activities, including access to camp-based health care facilities, school feeding, food-for-work, food-for-training and food for hospital in-patients.
- (d) A shortfall of 44,947 tons (US\$ \$26.2 million) exists up to the end of December 2006.

(9) Uganda

- (a) Suspected Lords Resistance Army (LRA) rebels are reported to have burned a commuter vehicle in Lira district four km from Alebtong IDP camp on Monday, 12 December. Eight people were confirmed dead and seven severely injured.
- (b) The Government of Uganda, in conjunction with the United Nations system, launched the 2006 Consolidated inter-agency Appeal on 12 December requesting US\$ 223 million, of which US\$ 111 is to meet the food needs of over 2.5 million vulnerable persons, including IDPs in Gulu, Kitgum, Pader, Lira, refugees in the West Nile and southwest regions and drought-affected agro-pastoralists in Karamoja region.
- (c) WFP, together with UNHCR and the Government of Uganda, conducted a Joint Assessment Mission (JAM) in refugee hosting districts in Uganda (Arua, Adjumani, Moyo, Masindi, Hoima, Kyenjojo and Mbarara) between 21 November and 2 December to assess/review the food security situation among refugees in Uganda and to determine appropriate ration levels of the refugees for the next six months

(December-May 2006). WFP will implement the new rations to selected settlements beginning January 2006.

- (d) WFP, UNHCR, UNICEF, OCHA, FAO, UNDP and the Government of Uganda completed a preliminary inter-agency assessment in selected counties of Lira district to establish the level of social services and agriculture in villages of origin in anticipation of the expected return of IDPs to their villages of origin in Lira district and Teso region. The Government of Uganda has already issued its IDP return plan for Teso and Lira. A comprehensive joint assessment involving UN agencies, NGOs and Government of Uganda will be conducted in January 2006. WFP will scale up the recovery programme in both regions next year to facilitate return of IDPs to their home villages through intensified food-for-work (FFW) and food-for-training (FFT) activities, focusing on agro-forestry and school enhancement activities.
- (e) WFP food distribution continues to reach 1.45 million displaced persons, 165,000 refugees and other vulnerable persons. During the past week, WFP distributed 2,971 tons of relief food assistance to 250,353 persons including IDPs sheltering in camps in Gulu, Kitgum, Pader and Lira districts, refugees, children in nutrition centres and other vulnerable persons.
- (f) WFP currently has a funding gap of US\$ 29 million representing an immediate shortfall of 54,796 tons of food commodities (42,952 tons cereals, 2,638 tons pulses, 2,088 tons vegetable oil and 7,118 tons fortified blended foods). This is most needed to maintain a healthy food pipeline for ensuring IDPs and refugees' food security over the next six months (through June 2006). Unless new contributions are confirmed, the nutritional status of 1.4 million internally displaced persons in northern Uganda, mostly women, children and the elderly will be at risk. Access to land around the IDP camps generally increased over the last 18 months due to a gradual reduction in violent LRA attacks. IDPs should be able to provide 40 percent of their daily food needs starting January 2006, but will still require 60 percent from external sources until at least the July 2006 harvest. Without this assistance, malnutrition rates will increase and the death rates of young children would increase rapidly.
- (g) Mr Shan Barber, Director of Conflict Prevention and Peace Building, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Canada, is visiting Uganda to familiarise himself with the humanitarian situation in northern Uganda.

(D) West Africa: (1) Cote d'Ivoire (2) Guinea (3) Liberia (4) Niger

(1) Cote d'Ivoire

- (a) The new Prime Minister Charles Konan Banny had discussions with main Ivorian political parties to inform about his future cabinet that would be named in the next few days. But uncertainty still lingers over the extent of his powers depending on the interpretation of UN Resolution 1633.
- (b) The security situation is fairly calm throughout the country. The Security Working Operation Group (SWOG) asked the Integrated Security Management Team (ISMT) to take appropriate measures to protect UN staff against increasing criminality with the year-end festivities approaching. UN staff are thus been advised to be very cautious and to increase one's vigilance.
- (c) The national vaccination campaign against poliomyelitis has been launched during the reporting period (8 – 14 December). According to UNICEF, about 95 % of children between 0 and 5 years have been reached in San Pedro region. In the Vallee du Bandama region, an approximate 277,391 children between 0 and 5 years are targeted as well as 236,582 children in the 18 Montagnes region.

- (d) As part of its capacities' strengthening plan, WFP organised in Korhogo a 3-day logistics seminar on warehouse management for WFP staff (programme and logistics units) and the 5 cooperating partners identified for the 2006 operation (ARK, IDEAL, Caritas BDPH, local Red Cross and Direction Nationale des Cantines). This seminar aimed at improving storage of commodities and at minimising losses.
- (e) As of 14 December 2005, the regional Protracted Relief and Recovery Operation (PRRO) (Cote d'Ivoire, Burkina, Ghana, Mali) has received a total of 35.3 million US dollars against the operational needs of 50.1 million US dollars (29% shortfall against operational requirements).

(2) Guinea

- (a) On 6 December, some 500 refugees blocked the general food distribution in Kouankan 1 camp and forced its interruption during two consecutive days.
- (b) In N'Zerekore, two cases of road blockades aimed to rob commuters were reported. Frequent cases of road blockades and attacks on private houses continue to be reported from Kissidougou.
- (c) The transfer of Ivorian refugees from Nonah camp to Kouankan 2 camp was completed on 3 December. In total 3,238 Ivorian refugees were transferred from Nonah camp to Kouankan 2.
- (d) During the reporting period (28 November – 11 December), a total of 229 Liberian refugees were repatriated in two small convoys. WFP has announced that the offer of double rations to encourage Liberian refugees to register for voluntary repatriation will no longer be operative on January 2006 due to a lack of resources.
- (e) Guinean refugee camps now host almost 56,000 individuals who are currently being assisted by WFP. The present count includes 3,457 refugees from Ivory Coast and the remainder from Liberia.
- (f) During the reporting period, a total of 324 tons were distributed to 21,770 beneficiaries during general food distributions in Kouankan 1, Kouankan 2, Madina and Telikoro camps.
- (g) The dispatching of food to schools for the first trimester of the 2005-2006 school year was completed during the reporting period. A total of 584 tons were distributed to the schools in Beyla, Lola, N'Zerekore and Yomou prefectures. In the prefectures of Kissidougou and Gueckedou, the distribution of non-food items (NFIs) to all participant schools has been achieved.
- (h) In N'Zerekore, during the reporting period, 1.8 tons of food was distributed to the beneficiaries of the Food-for-Training (FFT) activity, through which some 250 vulnerable women receive trainings on income generating activities. The Cooperating Partner in this activity is the local NGO named Today's Women International Network (TWIN).
- (i) WFP and the international NGO Family Health International (FHI) met on 2-3 December to discuss preliminary details of the implementation of WFP's pilot project of food support for people living with HIV/AIDS in N'Zerekore town.
- (j) On 3 - 4 December, WFP N'Zerekore's sub-office assisted on the celebration events of World AIDS Day organized by FHI.

(3) Liberia

- (a) The security situation in most of the country remained generally calm. However, following pronouncements made by George Weah on electoral frauds, on Sunday 11 December young supporters of the Congress for Democratic Change (CDC) demonstrated in Congo Town (a suburb of Monrovia) and clashed with police forces.

- (b) Following acts of violence and public disturbance in and around the CDC headquarters in Monrovia on the past Sunday, the Liberian Police has arrested 50 people (mostly supporters of the Congress for Democratic Change, CDC). WFP operations continued without incidents while the security situation remained constantly monitored.
- (c) During the reporting period (5 – 11 December), WFP and its Cooperating Partners delivered 779.2 tons of assorted food commodities to 248,187 beneficiaries (125,635 male and 122,552 female) in the framework of various feeding programmes.
- (d) WFP Liberia is facing a serious pipeline break in cereals. As a consequence, WFP food assistance to new projects in the framework of the Food Support for Local Initiatives programme has been suspended, while the Emergency School Feeding could be resumed with only half ration of cereals.
- (e) A total of 623.3 tons of assorted food commodities were dispatched from WFP warehouses in continuation of the November-December 2005 distributions.
- (f) General food distribution activities during this reporting period targeted 111 Ivorian refugees residing in the Little Wleebo Refugee Camp in Maryland County. The 111 beneficiaries (55 male and 56 female) received a total of 1.1 tons of assorted food items as ration for the month of December.
- (g) A total of 218 spontaneous returnees from Sierra Leone and 556 facilitated returnees from Ghana, Libya, Guinea and Ivory Coast, arrived in Liberia. They were served with 25.6 tons of assorted food items, representing the first tranche (two months) of the resettlement food package. In addition, 5,358 IDPs (who were deregistered in camps in Montserrado and Bong Counties) received 172.3 tons of food commodities as first tranche of their resettlement food package. Distribution of the second tranche food ration to returnees and IDPs (which completes their four-month resettlement food package) continued in Montserrado, Bong, Bomi, Capemount, Gbarpolu, Grand Gedeh and Lofa Counties. In this context, a total of 3,478 beneficiaries received 115.3 tons of assorted food commodities.
- (h) The joint assessment of schools by WFP, its Cooperating Partners and representatives of the Ministry of Education continued during the reporting period. The results of this on-going exercise will allow to review the beneficiary caseload of the School Feeding Program for the first half of the 2005/06 academic year. In addition to the joint assessment, food distribution to schools was carried out during the period in review. A total of 417.1 tons of food commodities were distributed to 227,332 beneficiaries (including 114,588 male and 112,744 female) through WFP sub-offices in Monrovia, Saclepea, Phebe, Buchanan and Zwedru. The distribution of school kits provided by UNICEF also continued: a total of 66 schools in Nimba and Gran Bassa counties received 253 boxes of school kits.
- (i) Assessment activities were conducted at several sites in Bong county. Three infrastructure projects were assessed in River Cess county. In Nimba county, four on-going agriculture projects received 32.7 tons of food items, representing the third and final tranche of WFP food support to these projects.
- (j) During the reporting period, WFP delivered 15.2 metric tons of food commodities to 1,140 beneficiaries (563 male and 577 female) in the context of its curative feeding programs. The institutions served included orphanages, TB program centers, therapeutic and supplementary feeding centers and MCH clinics.
- (k) Monitoring activities took place in River Cess county to verify the progress made in the Yarkpah-Vonneh Town Road Project.

(4) Niger

- (a) Post-harvest Emergency Operation (EMOP) activities through March of 2006 are

focusing on nutrition, school feeding and rural development activities. Global acute malnutrition rates are particularly high in Niger and are the result not only of the harsh lean season but also have structural roots and therefore need a long-term approach. Around 200,000 children have been treated for malnutrition this year and the numbers of new admissions has not decreased dramatically with the harvest. Rural development activities are focused on the agro-pastoral zones which are structurally vulnerable.

- (b) The final report from the WFP Emergency Food Security Assessment, conducted in September/October 2005, is being finalized. The results of the FAO/GoN/WFP joint crop and livestock assessment mission are also under finalization.
- (c) To date, the WFP Niger EMOP has reached nearly 3 million beneficiaries, having distributed 53,947 metric tonnes.
- (d) WFP and its nutrition partners are currently implementing the following four types of nutrition activities: Treatment ration for malnourished pregnant and lactating women; Treatment ration for malnourished children under five years; Protection ration- A supplementary ration of corn soya blend (CSB), sugar and oil given to families of malnourished children; Family ration- A supplementary ration of cereals, pulses and salt for the families of malnourished children.
- (e) WFP plans to distribute over 1,000 tons of CSB to partners in December for protection rations and rations for pregnant and lactating women. Similar quantities will be distributed each month under the EMOP through March of 2006 to provide urgently needed support to vulnerable women and children.
- (f) Delivery of family rations has commenced in Tahoua and Tillaberi and will follow soon in other regions. The families of an estimated 200,000 malnourished children will receive cereals, pulses and salt as an additional support to food security between now and end March 2006.
- (g) This month, WFP completed distributions to 7,000 nomadic households in the Department of Abalak (Tahoua region). Each family received a bag of rice for a total of 350 MTs distributed between 3-12 December. The nomadic populations were targeted because of their losses of livestock, the main source of their livelihood, during the crisis.
- (h) Food-for-Work (FFW) deliveries have begun in Tillaberi and Tahoua and will begin in other regions. In the month of December, over 1,200MT of cereals, 100MT of pulses and 50MT of oil will be distributed for projects designed to recuperate arable land across the country. For the remainder of the EMOP, another approximately 2,300MT will be distributed.
- (i) Deliveries to schools are nearly complete for Country Programme School Feeding activities. A total of over 2,400MT will be delivered for the fourth quarter of 2005, and an additional 2,400MT will be delivered in the first quarter of 2006.
- (j) WFP and the Government's Agricultural Markets Information System (SIMA Système d'Information des Marchés Agricoles) have been conducting weekly market monitoring since the end of August 2005. The latest weekly report shows that over the past three months, cereal prices have decreased by around 45 percent for sorghum and millet and 15-25% for maize and rice. Nevertheless, the average price of cereals remain slightly higher than usual, as compared with the last five years, while large regional price differences exist between cereal-deficit zones (for example Tillaberi and Agadez) and surplus zones (for example Zinder).
- (k) While the harvest has corrected some of the market anomalies created by the crisis, there remains a certain level of augmented market tension. Households who had to sell part of their harvest to re-pay debts incurred during the lean season will become more dependent than usual on market purchases later in the year. Therefore, it is important to closely monitor price developments and their impacts on the access to food by

food-insecure households, especially in the cereal - deficit zones.

- (l) The Niger EMOP 10398.0 is 63% funded, having received 37.3 million US dollars in contributions. The current shortfall is of 21.9 million US dollars. Contributions are urgently needed to avoid pipeline breaks in early 2005; a crucial period for vulnerable households to prepare for the lean season.
- (m) WFP Niger is in the midst of renegotiating its forwarding agents contracts for 2006. This will involve shipments arriving at the two main ports used for the Niger operation- Cotonou, Benin and Lome, Togo.

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

(1) Angola

- (a) The Angola Protracted Relief and Recovery Operation, PRRO 10054.2 – “Support to Return and Resettlement” – remains significantly under funded. The operation will be extended until 31 March, with a new PRRO scheduled to begin on 1 April 2006.

(2) Lesotho

- (a) From 7 to 13 December, WFP and Cooperating Partners provided food to 48,000 people. Beneficiaries were participants in HIV/AIDS, tuberculosis, mother and childcare, orphans and other vulnerable children programmes, as well as Food-for-Work (FFW) and Food-for-Assets (FFA) projects.

(3) Malawi

- (a) Food insecurity continues to be of grave concern as maize availability in local markets and ADMARC depots in the northern and southern regions remains scarce, and where available prices are escalating.
- (b) Meetings were held with Mzimba District officials and Plan Malawi during the week in preparation for the Targeted Food Distribution (TFD) activity in the district. Currently, beneficiary targeting is underway and food distribution is expected to start on 16 December. Over 32,000 households will be targeted. At least 23 FDP's have been identified in four Traditional Authorities (TAs). With the addition of Mzimba District in the North, the December food distributions will reach about 1.3 million beneficiaries in eight districts.
- (c) Admission reports from 48 Nutrition Rehabilitation Units (NRUs) for November 2005 increased by 17 percent in contrast to the same month in 2004. In addition, there was an increase of 30 percent compared to October 2005.

(4) Mozambique

- (a) Rainfall was reported in the centre (Sofala and Manica Provinces) and south (Maputo, Gaza and Inhambane provinces) of the country. While Tete and Zambezia provinces received rain, there has been a lack of rain in the three northern provinces of Nampula, Caba Delgado and Niassa causing growing concern by local authorities. Despite seed fairs, reports from Inhambane indicate an insufficient amount of maize seed for planting.
- (b) Targeted food distributions are ongoing in all provinces with the assistance of WFP's Cooperating Partners. In Mutarara District (Tete Province), beneficiaries received a two-month ration due to the likelihood of inaccessibility during the rainy season.

(5) Swaziland

- (a) From 6 to 12 December, WFP's Cooperating Partners distributed food to approximately 52,000 people.
- (b) In the Lowveld, some of the germinated maize crop has begun to wither as a result of recent high temperatures. The majority of the planted crop is in the early vegetative stage. The condition of cattle is improving in the Lowveld where rains have improved pasture growth. However, despite recent rainfall, water scarcity remains a serious cause of concern for livestock and newly planted crops.

(6) Zambia

- (a) WFP's new refugee programme (10071.2) is in urgent need of resources. Without immediate donations, WFP will be forced to cut rations by 50 percent from January 2006. According to current pipeline projections, commodities for the refugee operation will be exhausted by the end of March 2006. WFP needs USD 8.5 million in order to provide refugees with food until December 2006.
- (b) On 21 November the President of Zambia declared a national disaster as a result of hunger. The Vulnerability Assessment Committee (VAC) has now declared nine new districts as food insecure, taking the total number of drought affected districts to 36. The number of people requiring food assistance is likely to rise from the earlier estimate of 1.2 million.
- (c) The peak of the lean season is drawing closer and food security continues to deteriorate, especially in the southern half of the country, which has been seriously affected by drought and crop failure. Dwindling maize supplies are reflected in marked increases in maize prices, while delayed importation is increasing the pressure on already tight market supplies. Distress coping mechanisms such as prostitution and livestock sales were noted in several of the affected districts. People in many areas are surviving solely on wild fruits and tubers where available. In some areas close to parks and game management areas people are competing with wild animals for available food resources. School children are reported to be dropping out in higher numbers because they do not have the energy to walk to school, or they are required to stay at home and search for wild food.
- (d) Reports from WFP sub-offices and Cooperating Partners indicate that many households have not started planting for next year's harvest as they cannot afford to buy seeds and/or fertilisers - all money earned is going to buy food to meet day-to-day needs.
- (e) The summary report of the baseline survey on child nutrition in Eastern, Central, Southern and Western Provinces of Zambia, previously identified by the Vulnerability Assessment Committee (VAC) as drought affected, has been released. A follow-up nutrition assessment in the worst affected areas will begin this month.
- (f) WFP continues to experience food supply problems due to ongoing transport delays and the slow arrival of food from South Africa. Some commodities are being diverted and off loaded in Dar es Salaam and Beira ports as a measure to mitigate transporter capacity problems. Loading capacity in South Africa, along with regional competition for transport needed to deliver food and other inputs, has seriously delayed deliveries and compromised WFP's ability to preposition food before the onset of the rains.

(7) Zimbabwe

- (a) The food security situation continues to deteriorate. Maize grain is in short supply and prices are rising. Maize grain has not been available on the market in several collection sites in Bulawayo and Mutare for the past two weeks. The price of maize grain on 12 December in Harare was ZWD 25,000 per kilo and in Masvingo ZWD 18,000 per kilo,

representing 56 percent and 13 percent increases respectively from the previous week. (The official rate of exchange for December 2005 is ZWD 70,000:USD 1.)

- (b) In November 2005, WFP distributed 23,000 tons of food to just over 2 million beneficiaries through the vulnerable group feeding programme. Humanitarian food aid has become the main coping strategy for vulnerable groups, given the continued erratic supply of maize by the Grain Marketing Board (GMB). November food security monitoring revealed only 20 percent of community indicated the GMB as their source of maize. Those who manage to purchase a 50-kilo bag of maize from the GMB are compelled to share it among several households. As such, there remain increasing concerns that more people need to be added to the vulnerable group feeding programme. WFP has asked all Cooperating Partners to register all those who meet the targeting criteria, regardless of initial planning numbers, after which the need to further expand the programme will be reviewed.
- (c) WFP continues to follow up on those affected by the Government's urban "Clean Up" operation, in an attempt to ensure that those vulnerable people, who have been relocated to rural areas, are benefiting from WFP's ongoing vulnerable group feeding programme. In some districts the urban displaced are benefiting, while in others their names have not been proposed by the community during the registration process as they are seen as outsiders. WFP is working with Cooperating Partners to address this issue and ensure that all people meeting WFP criteria have the opportunity to benefit from the programme. In Victoria Falls, church groups reported that an estimated 15,000 people affected by the clean up campaign require assistance, including food aid, as compared to the earlier estimates of 1,500.
- (d) Staff members from various WFP sub-offices participated in an exchange visit to Mutasa District, in order to gain exposure to the comprehensive package of assistance offered under the WFP/Africare Home Based Care (HBC), Orphan and Vulnerable Children (OVC) programme. The programme combines food aid (with a male empowerment programme, encouraging men to engage as volunteers in home based care support, thus reducing the burden on women), payment of school fees for OVCs, life skills clubs, distribution of HBC kits and home nutrition gardens. There are also strong linkages between the Africare programme and the Ministry of Health, and lessons to be learned from Africare's engagement with community based organizations under an umbrella arrangement promoted and supported by WFP. The exchange visit will facilitate WFP's efforts to replicate some of the positive experiences from the Africare programme in other areas.
- (e) During a handover ceremony involving a WFP representative and Ministry of Health and Child Welfare officials on 13 December, WFP donated a spectrophotometer to the Government of Zimbabwe laboratory. This piece of equipment, which is valued at over USD 43,000, measures nutrients and contaminants in food and will increase the country's capacity to chemically analyse food imports, thus positively impacting the speed of approval of WFP imported commodities. During the handover ceremony, WFP highlighted its commitment to ensuring the quality of food aid it provides, and to building national capacity in relevant areas.

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

(1) Indonesia

- (a) Due to the slow pace of recovery, hundreds of thousands of internally displaced people are still without jobs and are still living with host families or in temporary accommodation – and will need some form of food assistance long into the future. WFP will continue to provide general food aid to the most vulnerable families as well as

longer-term recovery assistance to help people rebuild their livelihoods – and to tackle the alarming levels of malnutrition in children under 5.

- (b) Based on regular assessments, WFP is planning to scale down (and hopefully phase out) general food aid distributions over the course of 2006 – as more and more people rebuild their livelihoods. WFP aims to provide food assistance to almost 1.2 million beneficiaries in Aceh & Nias during 2006-07.
- (c) WFP welcomes the peace agreement between the government and GAM and is ready to assist if necessary – including in the provision of short-term reintegration packages. But there has been no official request for this type of activity so far.
- (d) Building on efforts made in previous months, significant advances have been made by WFP in improving the targeting of the General Food Distributions supporting the recovery of displaced people, thus decreasing beneficiaries.
- (e) In preparation of the transition from Emergency Operations (EMOP) to Protracted Relief and Recovery Operation (PRRO), warehousing facilities throughout Aceh are set to undergo improvements, such as the provision of concrete bases for the Wiikhalls and better drainage and access. This includes the construction of a permanent warehouse in Banda Aceh.
- (f) Port facilities in Banda Aceh and Calang have undergone improvements in infrastructure in order to improve loading and unloading of WFP landing crafts at these sites. These improvements will also support other non-food deliveries, including reconstruction materials.
- (g) Results from recent assessments, including the recent Rapid Food Security Assessment and the joint WFP/FAO Crop and Food Supply and Assessment Mission, will be available shortly. These assessment reports, coupled with pending nutritional surveillance data, will assist WFP in further targeting all programmes to better meet the needs of the population during 2006.

(2) Korea (DPR)

- (a) WFP's Executive Director James T. Morris visited Pyongyang on December 13-15 for negotiations with the DPRK authorities on the future of WFP's operations in 2006 and beyond. Cordial talks were held with high-level government officials, incl. Vice-Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs, Minister of Agriculture and President of the Presidium of the Supreme People's Assembly but no final agreement was reached. Leaving the DPRK, Mr. Morris announced that WFP will consider the results of the talks in Pyongyang and plans to hold more discussions on the matter over the next several weeks. A number of consultations with donors and other stake-holders will take place in December with a view of concluding negotiations in time for WFP Executive Board's meeting in February 2006.

(3) Maldives

- (a) Following an emergency food security assessment mission in early December in connection with WFP's planned phase-out of the Maldives, it has been agreed that WFP's office in the Maldives will close at the end of the year. Currently reaching 14,000 vulnerable persons, including displaced persons, host communities and groups whose livelihoods have been disrupted, the mission also recommended that as an exit strategy, WFP contingency stock would be used to provide a full food ration to 12,000 beneficiaries for the month of January.

(4) Myanmar

- (a) The government move to the new administrative capital is still on-going and is expected

to be completed by end of January 2006. During the Government briefing on 9th December, all Embassies, UN agencies and other external agencies were informed that preparations to set up their new offices in the new capital would be ready only after end of 2007.

- (b) WFP presented the results of its Nutrition Survey and discussed possible partnerships for the planned pilot nutrition activities at a meeting in Yangon with all stakeholders, including Ministry of Health, UNICEF, FAO and a host of international NGOs. The Nutrition Survey covered WFP's current operational areas in Magway Division and Shan State.
- (c) Under Emergency Operation (EMOP) 10345.1 in Shan State, a total of 825 tons of rice were distributed to 53,700 beneficiaries through Food-for-Education (FFE), Food-for-Work (FFW) and vulnerable group feeding during the reporting period (2 – 15 December).
- (d) Under Protracted Relief and Recovery Operation (PRRO) 10066.2, combined figures for Northern Rakhine State and Magway Division, a total of 1,300 tons were distributed to 112,000 beneficiaries through FFE, vulnerable group feeding and FFW activities during the reporting period.
- (e) WFP organized a Diplomats' visit to the Wa area from 9-12 December to show activities under the new phase of the EMOP (10345.1) – a total of 16 members from the diplomatic corps. They visited several project sites, met with INGO partners and also with the Wa authorities. The need to introduce alternative livelihoods and allow free access and movement of goods and people throughout the special regions was a common theme in the ensuing discussions with both Government and Wa authorities.

(5) Sri Lanka

- (a) WFP will continue food interventions targeting approximately one million vulnerable people in Sri Lanka throughout 2006 and 2007, including 347,000 people affected by the tsunami. The extended operation will support the rehabilitation and recovery process in conflict areas and meet the ongoing needs of the tsunami victims. WFP will work to ensure equity of assistance between the two groups.
- (b) Activities will support the conflict-affected caseload to build back their livelihoods and improve their nutritional status. In addition, similar assistance will be provided to victims of the tsunami by continuing to support the Government of Sri Lanka's recovery programme in those areas severely affected. WFP will work to ensure equity of assistance between the two groups.
- (c) Mother and Child Nutrition, School Feeding, Food-for-Work (FFW) and Food-for-Training (FFT) programmes will continue in 2006 and 2007 in areas damaged by the tsunami that were previously highly food insecure or affected by conflict.
- (d) As of mid-December, out of the planned 108,000 tons of food, WFP has dispatched nearly 82,658 tonnes to over 908,000 people. With the concerns about malnutrition, specific steps were taken to ensure that children of all ages received food assistance. WFP launched a mother child nutrition programme in health clinics which gave a fortified food ration to nearly 100,000 children between 6 months and 5 years of age and pregnant and lactating women and prevented deterioration in the rates of child and mother nutrition.
- (e) WFP School Feeding interventions started in January 2005 and covered 106,000 children in 397 schools. These school interventions not only increased the daily dietary intake of children but also helped increase their cognitive ability, capacity to learn and their attention span.
- (f) From September 2005, WFP initiated FFW activities, which paid some 36,500 workers

(183,000 beneficiaries) in food rations to rebuild infrastructure and support the resettlement of displaced and relocated persons. The 441 FFW projects have included repairs to 470 kilometres of roads, the restoration of 208 irrigation schemes and the planting of 213,435 trees. Thirty percent of these projects have been completed so far.

- (g) WFP incorporated innovative measures to make its tsunami assistance sustainable. One such action is the local purchase of rice: 18,000 tons of rice was contracted for procurement through the Government. Local purchase not only provided rice to the poorest and the needy but also benefited farmers from whom it was sourced directly. Another innovation is being tested out through the cash transfer pilot project which intends to put cash-in-lieu of food in the hands of 12,000 beneficiaries in Galle, Hambantota and Batticaloa and started in the last quarter of 2005.
- (h) Negotiations with the Government of Sri Lanka and the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) enabled WFP to deliver food to every affected area of the country. WFP had three pre-existing area offices in Sri Lanka, and WFP has now established another five area offices to monitor and implement this operation, including a field office in the LTTE-controlled Mullaithivu area; WFP was the first UN agency allowed to establish a permanent presence in this area.

(G) Latin America and Caribbean: (1) Bolivia (2) Colombia (3) Cuba (4) Ecuador (5) Guatemala (6) Nicaragua (7) Peru

(1) Bolivia

- (a) In the face of the forthcoming elections in Bolivia, the government issued a decree by which no marches, blockades, strikes, meetings or any other demonstrations are allowed. On behalf of President Rodriguez, the Presidential Delegate for political affairs guaranteed peaceful elections with police support. It was determined that, up to now, no security advisory for UN/WFP staff will be issued as the situation remains calm.
- (b) After a rapid assessment of damages and food needs caused by a hail storm and subsequent floods in the Municipality of Cotagaita, Department of Potosí, it was ascertained that seven communities lost their crops and vital assets leaving 356 families in need of food aid. WFP will support affected families with 12 metric tons of emergency food. These families will be included in the 2006 development program in order to help them to reconstruct their assets.
- (c) On Tuesday, 13th December, 95 tons of food for 2,375 families were delivered to intermediate warehouses in the Municipality of Gutiérrez in order to start distributions. Transportation of the remaining commodities to intermediate warehouses will be completed by Monday, 19th December. Distribution to beneficiaries will continue through Friday, 30 December, before the end date of Emergency Operation (EMOP) 10392.0.

(2) Colombia

- (a) The strong weather season that affected more than 180 municipalities in 26 of the country's 32 provinces is finally ending. According to Colombian authorities, this has been one of the heaviest rain seasons that hit the country in quarter of a century. More than 95 people died and according to official reports, some 800,000 people were severely affected.
- (b) Nearly 2,300 members of a major paramilitary group laid down their arms in order to return to civil life. This is the 21st demobilization act following the government agreements with right wing paramilitaries in December 2002 for full disarmament of the 20,000 fighters of those groups.

- (c) Some 2,200 people (600 families) from rural areas of the Municipality of Samaná that were forced to flee due to threats issued by a major illegal armed group three weeks ago have started their process of return to their villages located in rural areas of this municipality.
- (d) The Colombian Ombudsman denounced that members of a major right wing illegal armed group are blockading an indigenous reserve in rainforest areas of the Province of Choco. The information issued by the Ombudsman office indicates that some 2,000 members of the illegal group are surrounding the indigenous reserve. According to information issued by the indigenous community, the rebels are located in these areas since the second week of November. WFP supports several implementation projects in this province as part of PRRO 10366.
- (e) Confrontations between illegal armed groups have been reported in the rural areas of Curumaní, Province of Cesar. WFP supports implementation activities in this province as part of PRRO 10366 through a Satellite Office in Valledupar, capital city of the province.
- (f) In the context of the new Protracted Relief and Recovery Operation (PRRO) 10366, "Assistance to People Displaced by Violence", WFP delivered 473 metric tons of food in 14 provinces reaching to 40,823 beneficiaries, especially in, Food for Work, Food for Training, Nursing and Expectant Mothers, Nutritional Recovery and Emergency Food Aid as part of PRRO 10366.

(3) Cuba

- (a) The accumulated level of rain reported in November was generally low for the whole country and classified as severe for all the provinces, except for some areas, such as Pinar del Rio, where the level remains normal or above.
- (b) Distributions under Emergency Operation (EMOP) 10423.0 and 10473.0 are ongoing, assisting 773,000 and 110,900 people, respectively.
- (c) EMOP 10423.0 is resourced at 41%. US\$ 2 million is urgently needed to meet outstanding requirements. EMOP 10473.0 has been funded with IRA resources; US\$ 400,000 is urgently required to fully refund this project.

(4) Ecuador

- (a) According to the National Geophysical Institute, a low intensity quake of 4.5 in the Richter scale was registered on December 7, 470.73 km south from Quito in the Amazon Province of Morona Santiago. Moreover, a low intensity quake of 4.2 in the Richter scale was reported on December 4 201.45 km from Quito in the Province of Chimborazo. On December 11, a low intensity quake of 4.2 in the Richter scale was registered 259.68 km south from Quito in the coastal Province of Guayas.
- (b) A total of 59 tons of food (4,472 food rations) were distributed during November, reaching to 5,773 beneficiaries. The second phase of monitoring and evaluation of the operation will start on the second week of January 2006.

(5) Guatemala

- (a) The first part of the programmed distributions for December 2005 to the targeted affected families continued on December 7 in five of the prioritized departments.
- (b) On 13 December 2005, WFP presented the overview of the design and scope of the EFSA for the populations affected by Hurricane Stan. Government counterparts, NGO's, donors and UN agencies were present during the event and were all determine to continue coordinating and joining efforts to have integral information regarding food security.

- (c) On 14 December, WFP Food Monitor went on a field mission with government counterparts. The objectives were to verify that communities and families are receiving food, check waybills, dispatches and distribution lists, visit warehouses, visit communities and homes, assess whether the same families qualify for the second distribution, assess field coordination and work of cooperating partners.
- (d) During the reporting period (7 – 12 December), 3,345 families have received food rations in five prioritized departments. Also, 352 tons are expected to be delivered from 13 to 16 December.
- (e) Against the appeal for US\$ 14.1 million, so far US\$ 6.2 million have been received. WFP has made available an additional US \$300,000 from its multilateral funds presenting a shortfall of US\$ 7.9 million or 55.5% of the requested funds.
- (f) Approximately, 700 tons of food commodities have been confirmed to have been dispatched from warehouses during the reporting period.
- (g) WFP continues to be in close coordination with contracted transport to ensure delivery of food commodities to programmed distribution points.

(6) Nicaragua

- (a) Approximately, 10,363 pregnant and lactating women; 11,159 children under two years old; 1,792 vulnerable rural families and 69,746 schoolchildren in the Central and Northern Atlantic Region (RAAN) continue to benefit from the food distributions under Protracted Relief and Recovery Operation (PRRO) 10212.0.
- (b) The emergency food distribution (PRRO 10212.0 relief component) to 14 communities affected by the complete loss of harvests (due to rat infestations) in the Municipality of Waspam in the Northern Autonomous Atlantic Region (RAAN) of the country has finalized. A total of 216 metric tons was distributed to 4,450 people, covering three month of food needs.
- (c) IRA funds have been allocated against the PRRO 10212.0 in order to attend to 1,800 indigenous families in 24 communities suffering hunger along the Río Coco in the neighboring Municipality of Wiwilí. During the reporting period (9 – 14 December), 139 tons of relief food, as well as seeds and rodenticides was distributed. The second distribution is scheduled for January 2006. A total of 453 metric tons will be delivered covering relief food aid for 90 days for 1,800 families.
- (d) Since PRRO 10212.0 resources have been used to be able to respond to other emergencies (rat infestation in Waspam and hurricane in the Southern Atlantic Autonomous Region), the operation urgently needs resources to avoid pipeline break and continue to provide assistance to families living in areas vulnerable to recurrent shocks. The PRRO 10212.0 will experience shortfalls for the next six months, beginning in February 2006. Approximately 10,363 pregnant and lactating women; 11,159 children under two years old; 1,792 vulnerable rural families and 69,746 schoolchildren in the Central and Northern Atlantic Region (RAAN) continue to benefit from the food distributions under PRRO 10212.0.

(7) Peru

- (a) An extension of 12 additional months has been approved for PER 10320 until December 2006 and PER 6240 has been recommended another 18 months until December 2007.
- (b) Creation of assets activities is operational in the three Regions (Ayacucho, Apurímac and Huancavelica). Approximately 611 tons were distributed to 97,842 beneficiaries in Food-for-Work (FFW) and nutrition capacity-building activities in the months of October and September.

- (c) Local production of 221 metric tons of INCAMIX has concluded. All of this tonnage has been shipped upcountry for immediate distribution.
- (d) During the reporting period (9 – 14 Dec), 272 tons of all assorted commodities were distributed in the actual reporting period under project DEV 10320.
- (e) To date, all distributions for EMOP 10393 have been concluded. A total of 1,712 metric tons of all assorted commodities have been distributed during the whole operation reaching 62,300 beneficiaries (100%) in the regions of Puno and Apurimac.
- (f) EMOP 10393 will end on the 31st December. An official closure will be organized in January 2006 with the government, other partners (NGO's and UNICEF) and beneficiaries.
- (g) There are currently no shortfalls under DEV 6240 or DEV 10320.0
- (h) Nutritional conditions of beneficiaries under EMOP 10393 (ending in December 31), are expected to worsen in the next months, considering that harvests will not be ready until April or May of next year.

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

WFP Weekly Emergency Report

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

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

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