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21 May 2004

WFP Emergency Report No. 21 of 2004

Report

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report

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From David Morton, Director of the Transport Preparedness and Response Division (OTP); available on the Internet on the WFP Home Page (www.wfp.org), or by e-mail from Carlo.Scaramella@wfp.org, Chief of the Emergency Preparedness and Response Unit (OEP). For information on resources, donors are requested to

contact Valerie Sequiera at vsequiera@wfp.org at WFP Rome, telephone +39 06 6513 2009. Media queries should be directed to Brenda Barton at bbarton@wfp.org, telephone +39 06 6513 2602. The address of WFP is Via Cesare Giulini Viola 68, Parco dei Medici 00146 Rome, Italy.

A) Middle East, Central Asia and Eastern Europe: (1) Afghanistan, (2) Iraq, (3) North Caucasus - Russian Federation

1) Afghanistan

(a) The security situation remained relatively calm throughout most of the country. Areas to which UN missions remain suspended include: Billoiragh and Gurziwan districts of Faryab province in the north, Nuristan and Kunar provinces in the east, Paktia province in the southeast, and Qhor province except Chaghchani district in the west.

(b) During the reporting period, 361,002 beneficiaries received 2,057 MT of food. Some 2,592 MT of food commodities were transported, including 1,023 MT from ports in Pakistan and Iran to external logistics hubs and 1,269 MT from external logistics hubs into Afghanistan.

(c) On 19 May, authorities in Kandahar declared the southern region (Hilmand, Kandahar, Nimroz, Uruzgan and Zabul provinces), as drought affected area, requesting UN for food assistance. In response, WFP and its implementing partners formed a Drought Mitigation Task Force (DMTF) to provide food aid to the most vulnerable.

(d) A three-week PRRO Evaluation Mission is being conducted to assess the relevance, effectiveness, efficiency, and sustainable impact of WFP's assistance to Afghanistan.

2) Iraq

(a) Under PRRO 10218.0, figures for 1-18 May shows that 23,509 Afghan refugees have repatriated under UNHCR assistance, while 4,664 have repatriated spontaneously for a total of 27,673. On repatriation of Iraqis, from the beginning of the repatriation phase in November 2003 till 13 May 2004, a total of 107 Iraqi refugees repatriated under UNHCR assistance from Iraqi refugee camps.

(b) The Joint WFP-UNHCR quarterly monitoring exercise for un-camped refugees will be completed on 31 May.

(c) In Sistan-Baluchistan province, food distribution for April and May for 7,308 beneficiaries (95.9% females), was completed in the first week of May. Total commodities distributed were 130.1 MT of wheat flour, 24.3 MT of vegetable oil, 7.4 MT of pulses, 4.1 MT of sugar, and 27.9 MT of rice.

(d) IRCs, in collaboration with WFP and BAFIA, screened an additional 626 orphans (63.9% girls) in early May. The total number of orphans assisted is 5,188.

(e) Under PMOP 10342.0 the distribution of WFP/IRC food baskets to the residents of Bam for the month of May will be completed by 21 May. During this round of distribution 24,873 families (approximately 99,892 persons), living in the 14 districts in Bam will receive food rations. UNHCR flights will continue for three more weeks.

(f) Action Contre la Faim (ACF) has received USD 200,000 for the distribution of fresh fruits and vegetables to complement the WFP/IRC food baskets.

(g) WFP began the monitoring of food distribution in Bam on 16 May. The monitoring exercise will cover all 14 zones in Bam. Initial reports from WFP monitors indicate that food distribution is conducted at a central point in each zone. So far, beneficiaries have expressed their general satisfaction with the process.

(h) Upon the request of UNICEF, WFP delivered 30 MT HERs to the UNICEF warehouse for distribution in Early Child Care Centers run by the State Welfare Organization in Bam. This quantity is sufficient to feed 2,000 children for a period of six months.

(i) The Bam Task Force, through IRCs is planning to distribute cash coupons to affected population from as of next month. As of June, UN agencies and NGOs will concentrate more on recovery and rehabilitation activities.

3) North Caucasus - Russian Federation

(a) The Chechen President Akhmad Kadyrov was killed on May 9 in a large explosion that occurred in Grozny. The situation stays tense with terrorist acts and explosions, kidnappings, and attacks on law enforcement and civilians. One of this WFP monitoring missions planned for the first half of May have been cancelled.

(c) The situation in the last remaining camp "Satsita" in Ingushetia was calm and no major changes occurred. The return rate of IDPs to Chechnya is low as many of them are waiting for notifications on compensation payment for the housing destroyed during the conflict.

(c) According to the Danish Refugee Council, as of 15 May there were 56,113 registered Chechen IDPs living in Ingushetia: 1,601 in the camp "Satsita", 24,339 in spontaneous settlements and 30,173 in private accommodation. According to UNHCR, 296 IDPs returned to Chechnya from Ingushetia during the first fortnight of May. Of these, 262 were organized by the Chechen Migrants' Committee (CMC) and 34 were spontaneous.

(d) During the period of 1 to 15 May, about 90,000 vulnerable persons received nearly 700 tons of WFP-supplied food aid through relief distribution. WFP implementing partners distributed about 250 tons to 20,000 Chechen IDPs in Ingushetia and 450 tons to 82,000 'very poor' and 'poor' household members in Grozny city, Grozny Rural, Achkoi-Martan and Sunzha districts of Chechnya.

(e) The delivery of the food allocated for school feeding in Chechnya for May (a total of over 800 tons) by implementing partners started in the end of April to 333 pre- and primary schools representing over 77,000 children in both Chechnya and Ingushetia.

(f) During the first fortnight of May, 3,542 participants (representing 19,710 beneficiaries) received food payment for work completed in April through the food-for-work programme.

3) East and Central Africa: (1) Burundi, (2) Chad, (3) DRC, (4) DRC, (5) Ethiopia, (6) Somalia, (7) Sudan, (8) Uganda

1) Burundi

(a) Fighting between the national army and the Front for National Liberation (FNL) rebels continued in Bujumbura Rural province, resulting in temporary suspension of UN movements on the National Highway No. 7. Skirmishes between two factions of the Conseil National pour la Défense de la Démocratie - Forces pour la Défense de la Démocratie (CNDD/FDD) movement were reported in Bujumbura province.

(b) The leader of the CNDD/FDD movement conducted a four-day mission in the region to meet the Presidents of Uganda, Rwanda and Tanzania. Upon return, he reaffirmed that his movement will continue to boycott the Transitional Government and National Assembly until the conditions provided for under the November 2003 agreement with the Government have been met.

(c) All remaining Congolese refugees have been transferred from the Cishmeye camp in Dikika province to Kinama camp in Muyinga province and the Cishmeye camp was closed. WFP assisted the last group of Congolese refugees transferred from Cishmeye camp with food aid. A total of 8,168 refugees are currently housed in Kinama camp. WFP and UNHCR will conduct a joint assessment and a registration to verify the numbers.

(d) WFP Food Security Assessment teams conducted a monthly food security monitoring and assessment mission in different areas of Gitega, Rutana, Kayanza, Karusi and Bujumbura Rural provinces as they have been hit by hailstorms and bad precipitations, which affected the crops at different levels. WFP will continue to monitor the situation and intervene where necessary.

(e) WFP chaired the monthly meeting of the Committee on Food Aid (CFA), a forum that involves all agencies operational in the food aid sector. In the meeting the participants shared information on food distributions carried out during the previous month; the food supply pipeline situation; and on future food aid distribution and needs assessment plans.

(f) From 10-16 May 2004, WFP distributed a total of 1,468 tons of food aid to 17,647 beneficiaries through different programme activities.

2) Chad

(a) Under EMOG 10627 due to prevailing security situation and continued instability in Darfur, western Sudan, the United Nations Sudanese Refugee and Returnee Assistance Programme (UNSRAP) and UNHCR estimates that a total of 171,665 refugees are located in eastern Chad (85,339 in camps and 106,336 in border sites). The WFP is working on the Sudanese Refugee Programme to include an additional 80,000 beneficiaries, bringing the total caseload of the operation to 180,000 refugees plus 12,500 local population involved in FFW activities.

(b) The situation on the Chad-Sud border remains tense and unpredictable. The Chad armed forces have reinforced their positions in the border region following an incursion by the Janjaweed inside the Chad territory. Furthermore, there are growing tensions amongst the local population in the areas where refugee camps have been established due to scarcity of resources.

(c) Sudanese refugees seeking safety in north eastern Chad from the conflict in Darfur, Sudan, are now facing a serious health and nutritional crisis. WFP, UNHCR, and NGOs are undertaking a nutritional survey to start next week.

(d) Pre-positioning of food is undergoing and a total of 4,153 MT of assorted food are currently in Camps/EDPs: 273 MT Farfana, 1,352 MT in Goz Amer, 423 MT in Iliba, 222 MT in Irqimi and 553 MT in Gouéda.

(e) Under EMOP 10205 UNHCR started regrouping in one camp at Yarolingou (7 km from Maré city) the Central African Refugees relocating the small caseloads of Central African Refugees previously in Danamandji and Maro camps.

(f) Self-reliance activities aimed at improving the food security situation of the refugees are being explored. The NGO Africa Concern carried out an exploration mission on the situation on the ground in Gore Camp. The NGO is planning to provide agricultural inputs such as seeds and tools to the refugees.

(g) Armed individuals were arrested in Amboko site (Gore) by the police. They were known to be responsible for ambushes at roads of the areas. In addition, during the reporting period, it was reported that Central African Military militia incursions into Chadian areas near the border, Maradineré and Injués were reported among the Chadian populations. Tension is very high in Bossongou and Paoua cities (Chadian cities in the South). Displacement of persons started from these cities to Gore and Injués.

(h) May 2004 food distributions started in Gore camp on 10 May 2004 and are on-going. So far total quantity of food distributed is amounted to 171 079 MT. Reduced ration of sorghum has been given because of shortages.

3) DRC

(a) The town of Uvira, South Kivu province located near Burundi has been affected by the various confrontations between Burundi government forces and rebels on the one hand, and ethnic rivalries in the DRC. Since the situation has calmed down somewhat and its relative to the affected population and humanitarian agencies have strengthened their presence and expanding their activities. However, it has been reported that unidentified groups are threatening humanitarian workers to recruit only staff from the Uvira area.

(b) Following reports from Malungu, in South Kivu, 50 women and three men have been kidnapped by armed men. The group was on its way to the market of Chaziga at Mushwere when eight uniformed men forced them into the forest, taking the women.

(c) In Bunia, Ituri province, the Bunia-Komanda axis remained closed to humanitarian workers as recommended by the UN field Security Officer. The axis that leads from Bunia to Beni (North Kivu province) is mostly used by militiamen.

(d) In the South Kivu province, WFP's implementing partner MALTESER has closed two nutritional centres (one supplementary and one therapeutic feeding centre), located at Mutuli and Kibidoko, in the Walungu territory. To maintain the nutritional status of outpatients, MALTESER is looking forward to rehabilitating the Nzihira-Luntukulu axis to ease access to neighbouring vulnerable populations and reinforce food security activities.

(e) In the North Kivu province, some 1,500 former IDP families who are relying on their villages in Nkosa and Mulango reported difficult living conditions due to military harassment. During a follow up mission carried out by WFP, OCHA, FAO, WHO, the Norwegian Relief Committee and Food for the Hungry International, many families confirmed that armed soldiers were levying taxes in kind (food and cash) every fortnight. They highlighted needs in potable water, as their current water points were drying out and seeds to increase the farming capacity. WFP has enough resources to assist them in the establishment of new water points through a food for work project. However, a partner providing construction materials such as pipes will be needed.

(f) During the reporting period, WFP distributed 112 tons of food to 2,300 beneficiaries (IDPs, returnees and malnourished children) in Bunia in South Kivu province. WFP provided 70 tons of food (13,331 people) the

majority being returnees and vulnerable groups. In North Karsang, a total of 51 tons of food was distributed to 3,035 beneficiaries, mainly malnourished children and vulnerable groups.

4) Djibouti

(a) The eighth convoy of the second voluntary repatriation phase of refugees of Somali left Djibouti on Monday, 17 May 2004 to various destinations in northern Somalia. In total, 146 families or 674 refugees from Hoi Hoi camp have been repatriated to various destinations, namely Garba Dhabar, Ali Ad and Gualissa. WFP has provided to all refugees a nine-month food package. The next convoy with approximately 500 refugees from Ali Addeh camp is scheduled to leave on 22 May 2004.

5) Ethiopia

(a) The months of May and June are the months of peak relief food aid demand with almost seven million people requiring rations in these months. This is also the period when food is pre-positioned in the areas that become inaccessible during the main rainfall season (mid-June to late September). Over 30,000 tons of food requires pre-positioning in addition to the monthly requirements of 130,000 tons for May and June.

(b) The gross requirements for May-December 2004 are 596,000 tons, against which confirmed contributions to WFP, NGOs and bilateral with the Government stand at 397,000 tons. The current shortfall for May-December is 201,000 tons (cereals 161,000 tons, pulses 7,000 tons, vegetable oil 8,000 tons, fortified blended food 24,000 tons, and iodized salt 1,000 tons). A full assessment of the impact of rainfall in the lean season ("Bega") cropping areas and pastoral areas will take place in June; historically, some additional relief food requirements result from this.

(c) WFP is moving up to 1.4 million relief food requirements, with the remainder met by contributions of NGOs or the Government. Thus WFP is to provide for up to 3.44 million beneficiaries (peak monthly figure). Among these, 1.4 million are to receive supplementary rations and 400,000 children will receive emergency ration. Including WFP relief food requirements, total almost 146,000 tons in 2004 are as a mid-May contribution, total 214,000 tons (i.e. 46 percent coverage). Donors are urged to make new contributions or confirm pledges under negotiation.

(d) In consultation with concerned donors and the Government's Disaster Prevention and Preparedness Commission, WFP is providing supplementary food rations to vulnerable populations to resettlement areas in Dromiya region. WFP is also assisting with food storage requirements (mobile stores, raised and tarpaulins) to prevent food from being damaged by rainfall.

6) Somalia

(a) A lot of Somalia remains in security zone classification phase IV or V. In south Somalia, some fighting broke out between clans in Belet Xawo in Gedo region and the most serious clash was reported in Mogadishu where more than 60 people died and over 250 were injured.

(b) Alternatively good rainfall in April ("Gu" rainy season) the rain has reduced the intensity in most parts of Somalia during the first weeks of May. The drought-prone areas have received below normal rainfall; therefore, WFP is following up the situation and has planned to continue the food aid to the most drought-affected areas in North and Central Somalia.

(c) The conflict between Somaliland and Puntland authorities still remains high. Despite of the prevailing insecurity, WFP continues its efforts to cover other drought areas. The emergency relief distribution is carried out from both sides North Somalia (Somaliland) and Puntland, covering North-West & East drought-affected areas targeting 60,900 vulnerable beneficiaries, mostly women and children.

(d) Following a assessment mission to Lower & Middle Jubba area in South Somalia, WFP recommends to support the poor and vulnerable population of Jannale, Marore and Buale districts of Lower and Middle Jubba. WFP has signed an agreement with Modocoba Sanaa Fardulle (Mof) - Buale to support nutritional programme in Marore district for three months from May to July. Also, WFP is planning to implement TFW activities in those districts through local authorities and NGOs.

7) Sudan

(a) WFP continues to provide food assistance to the war-affected population in Darfur region in western Sudan. Since January 2004, WFP has distributed 19,292 tons of assorted food commodities to 728,875 war-affected beneficiaries. Food distribution was undertaken as follows: 7,539 tons to 320,459 beneficiaries in West Darfur, 9,859 tons to 298,971 beneficiaries in North Darfur and 1,904 tons to 100,239 beneficiaries in South Darfur. In April, a total of 8,894 tons of food commodities was distributed to 563,644 beneficiaries.

(b) The findings of an inter-agency assessment mission to Marjar and Dayodosa in South Darfur showed an alarming mortality rate among the under-fives (5-7 children per week). Faced on the findings of the mission, Médecins Sans Frontières (MSF)-Holland has included the two areas in its weekly mobile outreach and has planned to start therapeutic and supplementary feeding programmes. Despite access constraints, MSF will also commence another therapeutic feeding programme in Kolma camp during the next week. WFP in Nyala confirmed its preparedness to support MSF's program in the camp to alleviate the deteriorating nutritional situation.

8) Uganda

(a) The humanitarian situation in northern Uganda has reached alarming levels. Heightened insecurity and the increasing daily food need of over 1.3 million displaced persons have resulted in a critical dip in the stock of over 106,000 of food commodities (81,840 tons cereals, 15,722 tons pulses, 7,868 tons CSB and 908 tons vegetable oil) from May through December 2004. A pipeline break in fortified blended food is anticipated from May through December 2004. WFP needs a total of US\$ 56 million to continue feeding the displaced population in seven districts of northern and eastern Uganda (Gulu, Kitgum, Pader, Lira, Soroti, Katakwi and Kaberamaido) through December 2004. Cereal stocks will be exhausted by July. Ongoing fighting is keeping the massive numbers of displaced people until the next harvest in August. WFP urgently needs over US\$24 million to avoid the critical situation becoming worse. WFP was forced to remove fortified blended food for young children from the list of household ration, conserving the limited stock to malnourished children in critical programmes and primary schools.

(b) WFP food distribution continues to reach over 1.6 million displaced persons, 140,000 refugees and other vulnerable persons. During the period 10 to 15 May 2004, 3,753 tons of WFP relief food assistance reached 248,484 persons including IDPs sheltering in camps in Gulu, Kitgum, Pader and Lira districts in the northern Acholi and Langi sub-regions; eastern Teso region; refugees, and vulnerable persons.

(c) The number of people in need has doubled over the past year and the sheer scale of the crisis has stretched WFP's resources in Uganda. Until new donations are received, WFP may be forced to drastically reduce rations. Early this month.

(d) On Sunday, 16 May 2004 the Lord's Resistance Army (LRA) rebels, in another gruesome incident, attacked Pagan IDP camp, 24 kilometers from Gulu town. At least 54 people, mostly women and children, were clubbed to death. An unknown number of people were abducted. Following the attack, scores of displaced persons have abandoned their homes within the camp and have fled to neighbouring camps. In response, WFP distributed food, blankets and clothes received from the Department for Disaster Preparedness, Office of the Prime Minister, to 544 families whose houses and property were destroyed. In addition, humanitarian agencies operating in Gulu district, including WFP and the Gulu district authorities conducted a rapid assessment to establish the immediate needs of the survivors. It was found that there is a urgent need for food and no stock item.

(e) Other incidents reported include LRA attacks on the civilian population in Kitgum district; on 17 May four people were killed and seven seriously injured in an ambush on a vehicle on the Lira-Kitgum road; on 16 May 2004 but were turned in an attack on a lab in Gen. Idi Amin.

C) West Africa Region (1) Cote d'Ivoire, (2) Sierra Leone, (3) Guinea, (4) Liberia, (5) Burkina Faso

1) Cote d'Ivoire

(a) During the reporting period (10-18 May), approximately 800 MT of various food commodities were distributed to more than 180,820 people. This distribution included over 6,000 returnees to Bin Houye and 890 households in Ebrié, which benefited from the WFP/Del. emergency agricultural project, which provides seeds, agricultural tools and a seed protection ration. WFP also provided 18 day rations to 405 Liberian refugees who were affected

for the U.S. resettlement programme and who are now being re-registered for the regular distribution at the camp in Gunglo.

(c) The anger at the UN report which holds the government responsible for human rights violations during the protests of 25-26 March has resulted in the targeting of UN personnel and vehicles, by the Jeunes Patriotes, an unofficial militia loyal to President Gbagbo. On 17 May, in the town of Toumodi between Yamoussoukro and Abidjan, a convoy of UN peacekeeper and French troop vehicles was ambushed by the Jeunes Patriotes, who blocked and stored the vehicles.

(c) Various other demonstrations are planned by the Jeunes Patriotes over the coming weeks at the Prime Minister's office and the headquarters of the UN peacekeeping mission. On 20 March, a large rally will be held by the Jeunes Patriotes at the main stadium.

(d) Ethnic conflicts continue to plague the west of the country, the root of which is land-rights issues that predate the current political conflict.

The latest conflict in the village of Diendouzon has resulted in the displacement of 3000 people to the town of Bangolo, located in the buffer zone between government and rebel-held territory. WFP is providing the IDPs with food rations which are complemented by non-food items from CRC and UNICEF.

2) Sierra Leone

(a) During the reporting period (3-16 May), 1415 MT of various food commodities were distributed to approximately 149,000 people. Beneficiaries included more than 90,000 children through school feeding programmes as well as 42,000 refugees.

(b) The UNHCR continues to repatriate Sierra Leoneans from Guinea. WFP provides 50 rations with food aid at the Kailahun Way Station.

(c) Per discussions with UNHCR, refugee beneficiary numbers have been reduced from the initial 60,000 planned figure to 54,000, which will progressively decrease to 50,000 in December. Similarly, planned refugee caseloads have been scaled down from 30,000 to 20,000 for the year.

3) Guinea

(a) During the reporting period (3-16 May), 500 MT of various food commodities were distributed to approximately 36,000 people.

(b) WFP and UNICEF will undertake a verification exercise of all registration ID Cards. Following this exercise, WFP foresees a reduction in the number of beneficiaries starting in June 2004.

(c) Presidents from the Mano River Union countries (Guinea, Sierra Leone and Liberia), and the Presidents from Côte d'Ivoire and Mali will meet in Conakry on 20 May to discuss ways to promote peace in the region. The summit is the first of its kind since the departure of the Liberian President Charles Taylor in August 2003.

(d) The organized repatriation of Sierra Leonean refugees continues until 30 June. The final general distribution to Sierra Leonean refugees, covering both May and June, in order to support their repatriation, has been completed in Kissidougou.

(e) Due to the diversion of a ship carrying 2100 MT of bulgur to Monrovia to avoid a pipeline break there, a shortfall in cereals is now foreseen in early November. New contributions are needed soon in order to ensure that there is no interruption to distributions.

4) Liberia

(a) During the reporting period (13-18 May) WFP provided more than 83,000 IDPs and Refugees with 1,186 MT of various food commodities. This included more than 200 MT of commodities which were distributed as part of the disarmament and demobilization programme.

(b) WFP's food pipeline is facing an acute shortfall of commodities beginning in July. Unless urgent new pledges are received, WFP will not be able to provide adequate food rations to cover 600,000 beneficiaries from July onwards.

(c) Intensive monitoring of school feeding activities continued during the reporting period. 35 schools were visited in Montserrado County where WFP is feeding 4,423 school children.

(d) Following the lowering of security phase from V to IV in Lofa county, WFP is planning to undertake a three day assessment mission to Voinjama starting 23 May. The mission, which will travel by road, is expected to assess the security situation and to identify premises for a planned WFP sub-office.

(e) Although the security situation in Liberia is generally calm, recently there have been riots in Monrovia caused by former militiamen demanding full payment of their disarmament resettlement grant.

5) Burkina Faso

(a) In April, WFP distributed more than 36 MT of priority commodities to approximately 5 000 beneficiaries through school feeding and health (HIV/AIDS) activities.

(b) A decreasing number of Burkinabe continue to return to Burkina Faso from Cote d'Ivoire (approximately 30% of these returnees are women and children).

D) Southern Africa: (1) Regional, (2) Angola, (3) Madagascar, (4) Malawi, (5) Mozambique, (6) Namibia, (7) Swaziland, (8) Zambia, (9) Zimbabwe

1) Regional

(a) WFP participated in the "Southern African Development Community (SADC) Heads of State and Government Extraordinary Summit / Agriculture and Food Security" held in Dar es Salaam - Tanzania on 13 May, 2004. The summit adopted and signed the Dar es Salaam Declaration on Agriculture and Food Security in the SADC Region, which reaffirms the leaders' commitment to ensuring accelerated agricultural development and sustainable food security, through multi sectoral strategic interventions in accordance with the United Nations Millennium Development Goals, the Declaration of the World Food Summit in 1996 and 2002 and the Regional Indicative Strategic Development Plan (RISDP).

(b) The summit noted WFP activities to assist food insecure populations and the high level of WFP food procurement in the region.

(c) The United Nations at a conference on "HIV/AIDS and poverty in Africa" on 9 May, predicted that Southern Africa may lose 15 million agricultural workers to HIV/AIDS by 2020. The World Health Organization (WHO) estimated that between 60 percent and 80 percent of AIDS related deaths in the region were due to malnutrition. According to James Morris, Director of the UN Secretariat for Humanitarian Affairs in Southern Africa, this will drastically affect the region's food production capability and further fuel already critical food shortages. He said that the HIV/AIDS pandemic is threatening the very future of the region and a bold approach is needed to address the crisis of devastating illness and drought-affected agriculture. Also, the crisis in Africa had not been fully understood by the international community. Morris warned that an exceptional effort is urgently needed if a major catastrophe is to be averted.

2) Angola

(a) The joint FAO/WFP Crop and Food Supply Assessment Mission (CFSAM) is taking place in Angola from 16 May to 5 June. The Mission is expected to travel to eight provinces (Uige, Kwanza North, Bie, Moxico, Huila, Huambo and Kuando Kubango). Preliminary results are expected by early June and a final report in early July.

(b) In the province of Bié, police went to a and again (old surrounding a school in Chibila Commune, 91km south of Kuito City). Demining NGO Halo Trust is planning to investigate further, however, they are currently delayed by a lack of access due to poor road conditions and other suspected mined areas. Most of the roads to Chibila are currently closed to the agriculture.

3) Madagascar

(a) media reported a 12 percent increase in the price of rice since January and a corresponding 8 percent increase in the price of fuel. The increases are due to numerous factors including increases in world market prices and devaluation of the Malagasy Franc (MGF).

(b) The results from the inter-agency food needs and crop assessment mission in drought areas in the north-western region revealed that 315 000 (8.4 percent of country) are in "critical" and "at risk" status. Cystine Gafilo. The assessment mission has also revealed additional problems of seed availability. 2,300 MT of rice and 34 000 of maize are required.

(c) The Invasive Nutrition Rehabilitation Centre (INRC) in Ambovombe reported 25 cases of severely malnourished children, 4,484 cases of moderately malnourished children, and 3,893 children showed signs of moderate malnutrition in Amboasary. Both are districts in southern Madagascar.

4) Malawi

(a) The joint FAO/WFP Crop and Food Supply Assessment Mission (CFSAM) conducted a debriefing for Government, donors, UN agencies and NGOs on their findings. Malawi has experienced a maize harvest estimated to be 10-15 percent lower than last year. The final report will be released next week.

5) Mozambique

(a) The joint WFP/FAO CFSAM team returned to Maputo after completing their field visits. The final report is expected by the end of May. The team will give an in-country preliminary presentation this week to the Government, UN agencies, NGOs and donors in Maputo.

6) Namibia

(a) WFP has provided food rations for three days for 200 Angolan refugees who left Osire camp in Namibia on their journey back to Angola. They will stay two nights in Okavango bush camp near the Oshikango border between Namibia and Angola. The refugees are expected to have crossed the border into Angola on 20 May after the completion of immigration and customs formalities.

7) Swaziland

(a) The joint WFP/FAO CFSAM briefed the Deputy Prime Minister, MGCA and donors on its preliminary findings. The team confirmed that the late and erratic rainfall had impacted negatively on maize production. The mission reported that poverty and the HIV/AIDS pandemic continue to have a serious negative impact on the hunger situation in the country.

(b) On 14 May 2004, the Emergency Coordinator and WHO HIV/AIDS Specialist met with the Principal Secretary of the Ministry of Health to discuss the appeal for WFP assistance to support clinical and out-patient services in hospitals. These hospitals are located in the most food insecure part of the country. WFP assistance would be linked to the ongoing Directly Observed Therapy (DOTS) treatment and to the new ARV treatment programme.

8) Zambia

(a) WFP participated in the recent rapid food needs assessment coordinated by Disaster Management and Mitigation Unit (DMMU). The team's core work took place in the field on May 11, 2004 after assessing the food crisis in western and north-western provinces. Preliminary findings in Western Province estimate that the number of affected persons is likely to increase as it seems the situation in Karibou was underestimated. Indications are that food insecurity is a major concern affecting at least 75 percent of 20,000 households in the area. Water and sanitation issues in the area are also dire. Health authorities indicated that malaria and diarrhoea cases are on the increase. North-western province data has not yet been received. The final report will be officially released in the last week of May.

(b) WFP presented its HIV Mitigation Strategies to the World Bank, and representatives from Zambian National Response to HIV/AIDS (ZANAR) and Community Response to HIV/AIDS (CARAIDS). These two bodies disburse funds from the World Bank and Global Fund on behalf of the Government of Zambia. The organizations agreed to fund the sustainability component of the Protracted Relief and Recovery Operation (PRRO), specifically the Urban Intervention.

(c) WFP met representatives of the International Institute of Child Health (IICHI) University College, London to discuss collaboration on child health programmes for malnourished children admitted at the University Teaching Hospital. WFP is supporting the therapeutic rehabilitation of these children by providing High Energy Supplements (HEPS), Sugar, Dairy Schemed Milk (DSM) and Oil. IICHI appealed to WFP to increase the current ration sizes allocated to the under-fives in order to meet their full nutritional requirements, rather than merely contribute to their diet through supplementation.

(d) During the reporting week, WFP and its partners distributed 1,443 MT of food.

9) Zimbabwe

- (a) WFP met the Minister of Public Service, Labour and Social Welfare to discuss the Government of Zimbabwe crop protections. The minister confirmed the need for continued targeted food aid programmes for AIDS, orphans, malnourished children and schools.
- (b) Harvesting is gradually coming to an end and the availability of food varies across wards and districts countrywide. In most urban areas, food is generally available on the market place but the prices are unaffordable to ordinary people. In Gutu and Zvimba districts of the north-western Mashonaland West province, families interviewed during post distribution monitoring indicated that they are likely to remain with inadequate food stocks after repaying the government's Grain Marketing Board (GMB) for inputs received last year under the credit input scheme. Under the arrangement, farmers receive loans of farming inputs, mainly seed and fertilisers, from the government through GMB, and repay for the advances with grain after harvesting.
- (c) Gold panning, and sale and consumption of wild fruits are on the increase in parts of Mashonaland, Manicaland and Matabeland provinces, where people did not get a good harvest.
- (d) Analysis and report writing of the Zimbabwe Vulnerability Assessment (VAC) is in progress. Fieldwork was completed in the first week of May. The VAC report will be released by the first week of June.
- (E) Asia: (1) DPR Korea, (2) Indonesia

1) DPR Korea

- (a) Under EMC, 101,000 MT, due to cereals shortage, distribution can affect more than one million core beneficiaries since the beginning of May. Unless additional contributions are pledged immediately, by October, all 3.8 million core beneficiaries will be deprived of their cereal rations. Moreover, loans received to help repair the overseas pipeline break will need to be repaid from future contributions. Cereal allocations for food for work (FFW) projects during the spring season have had to be reduced from a planned 32,000 to 8,000 MT.
- (b) New pledges of about 127,000 MT of mixed commodities (mostly cereals) are urgently required to cover the shortfall over the next months.
- (c) A Government proposal for the reconstruction of some 1130 family homes destroyed in the train explosion in Ryongchon last month has been approved and reconstruction will start next week. WFP has already released an initial 350 MT of cereals for this Food for Work project.

2) Indonesia

- (a) In Maluku, Ambon, starting 21 April, at least 30 people have been reportedly killed and more than 100 severely wounded after rioting by the FKM separatist movement prompted a major outbreak of the sectarian violence. Many public facilities were burned down, including the UN building, universities, religious buildings, houses and IDP resettlement areas. WFP's office is secured, but all UN staff were relocated to safety.
- (b) The parliamentary elections on 5 April went smoothly and were generally peaceful.
- (c) On 20 April, WFP's pilot TB program started with the distribution of 40 MT to 89 health centers and nine TB clinics in North and Central Jakarta.
- (d) WFP received the remaining 80 MT of 1,000 MT of USA rice which was a replacement for the shipment which was diverted to Timor-Leste in February.
- (e) Under the PRRO, approximately 4.9 million beneficiaries received WFP assistance amounting to about 7,070 MT during April.
- (f) WFP has received and exempted from the Ministry of Agriculture to unstuff 1,000 MT of rice which has been stored in the containers in the port of Surabaya and Jakarta due to a Government imposed rice ban. The rice, however, will remain in the warehouse until the ban period ends 30 June 2004.

(F) Latin America and the Caribbean: (1) Dominican Republic, (2) Colombia, (3) Ecuador, (4) Guatemala, (5) Haiti, (6) Nicaragua

1) Regional

- (a) WFP Executive Director Janis Morris visited Peru and Brazil from 10 to 22 May to strengthen partnerships for the fight against hunger in the LAC region. In Peru, Mr. Morris stated that WFP will continue to support the Peruvian government in the fight against chronic malnutrition rates, particularly at the launch of the Innocent Lives, Suffering campaign. He encouraged the Peruvian business community to explore new partnerships with WFP.

in Brasilia, Brazil, met President Luis Inacio Lula da Silva and other government officials and praised the President for forcefully placing hunger back in the world political agenda and for his proposed World Alliance Against Hunger and Poverty. In the industrial city of Sao Paulo, WFP Executive Director met senior staff members of TPSTN (Brazil), the global express, mail and logistics Netherlands-based Company.

(b) Heavy rains continue to fall along the region of Guatemala, Panama, and Nicaragua. The situation is likely to continue over the next week. Food security deterioration observed in the Northwest of Haiti due to persistent dryness. Health centers report increasing cases of severe malnutrition.

(c) The European Commission granted 5.4 million EUR in emergency humanitarian aid to support the victims of the socio-economic crisis in Haiti. This amount is in addition to the 1.8 million EUR for humanitarian aid provided in March. Resources will be directed to help improve access to water and sanitation, health care and provide food aid to victims suffering from the current socio-economic collapse of the country. Support will also be provided to the re-orientation of humanitarian aid efforts.

2) Colombia

(a) At least 284 Wayuu indigenous people from the villages of Portete and Bama Honda, province of Guapira were forced to leave their homes due to clashes between illegal armed groups in this region.

(b) A grenade reportedly exploded in the Villa Hermosa prison killing five inmates and 20 wounded.

(c) Seven presumed members of an illegal armed group were killed by Colombian army in different rural areas of Antioquia province presumably for installing land mines. Although WFP Governor's several implementation activities in this province no incidents have been reported.

(d) WFP restarted implementation activities in Guapira province as part of PRRO 10158 and distributed 400 MT of food in 11 provinces to 64,573 beneficiaries. These commodities were distributed to undertake construction of temporary housing and schools, vocational training, literacy and agricultural activities. Other activities supported were pre-school and school feeding, critical recovery projects and rural extension projects, health care, micro-enterprises and emergency food aid.

3) Ecuador

(a) During the reporting period, the National Geophysical Institute reported high levels of seismic activity caused by moderate explosions of the Tungurahua and Reventador Volcanoes and an earthquake of 4.3 magnitudes in the night's scale at the city of Esmeraldas.

(b) On Wednesday May 12, 2004, the government extended the emergency status to 60 more days in five cantons in Tungurahua province and in Chimborazo province due to constant volcanic activities.

4) Guatemala

(a) The National School Feeding Programme will be re-initiated under the responsibility of the Ministry of Agriculture following the final decision of the Constitutional Court on 13 May 2004.

(b) Early heavy rains have continued in Guatemala. The situation is being closely monitored.

(c) Under PRRO 10212, distribution of 2,000 MT of maize, beans, CSB and vegetable oil among 20,000 beneficiaries composed primarily of children below five years of age and women, will start the coming week.

5) Haiti

(a) According to CARE, the Far West communes of Baie de Henne, Bombardopolis and Môle St Nicolas are chronically drought prone. Ongoing monitoring in the Northwest indicates food security deterioration. Data from health centers throughout the Far West reflect an increase in the number of malnourished children.

(b) Reports from WFP food monitors and NGOs in the region continue to show high prices of some commodities, in particular rice, peas and wheat in the Baie de Henne and Port-au-Prince in the Northwest. In particular, areas with scarce rain, such as Anse Rouge, Baie de Henne and Bombardopolis will have reduced harvests. Many hospitals and health centers report increasing cases of severe malnutrition.

(c) A total of 20,477 beneficiaries were reached with work in schools, orphanages, and health centers.

(d) WFP continued to participate in the Country Interim Cooperation Framework and concrete proposals for food-based safety nets (food for education and food for nutrition) are being prepared. The first draft of the country

assessment will be ready by 21 May and the final version will be used as an important input for the Donor's Meeting to be held by mid July.

(e) A meeting with the UN security and telecommunications officers was held to confirm the status of MOSS (minimum operations security standards) compliance of all UN agencies in the country. UNSECOORD, WFP and UNICEF are working to establish a common interagency telecommunications network, which will bring UN agencies up to MOSS standards.

(f) WFP will be receiving more equipment in Port-au-Prince in order to bolster communications capacity, especially of WFP sub-offices in Bombardopolis and Cap-Haitian. Equipment will be installed in sub-offices, warehouses and vehicles and will permit communications even in remote areas.

(g) The first WFP convoy of 16 donated Norwegian trucks left Port-au-Prince on May 11, with food for the warehouse in Cap Haitian. The trucks will remain in the north and will provide support to the agency's programmes, particularly the Emergency Operation (EMOP).

(h) Shipments of 193,7 MT of rice, 90,143 MT of beans and 24,765 MT of vegetable oil were received during last week.

6) Nicaragua

(a) Poor rural families in the "plantones" continue their protests to obtain tenure of land. Women and children who remain in these "plantones" are the most vulnerable to diseases and the inclemency of the weather.

(b) The rainy season has begun and is expected to last until October. According to the Nicaraguan Institute of Territorial Studies (INETER), rains will be normal from May to July.

(c) The hurricane season, which normally goes from August to October, is expected to bring along a higher-than-average number of hurricanes in the Atlantic.

(d) On the week of 10 May, the Pacific Coast was affected by earthquakes on an average of 4.1 to 4.7 on the Richter scale. No casualties were reported.

(e) Food distributions under PRRO 10212.0 "Targeted food assistance for persons affected by shocks and the recovery of livelihoods" continue. Currently, a total of 67,466 school children are being assisted in the RAAN and more than 12,000 school children in the municipality of Matagalpa. In addition, 10,027 vulnerable children under 2 years of age, 8,729 expectant and nursing women and 2,000 poor rural families are also being assisted in the northern region of the country.

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

(END WFP Emergency report No. 21, 2004)

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