Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations

GIEWS Updates

VOLUME 2006

The ***GIEWS Updates*** are issued by FAO's **Global Information and Early Warning System (GIEWS)** from mid-2004. The updates focus on developing anomalous conditions aimed at providing early warnings, as well as latest and more elaborate information than other GIEWS regular reports on the food security situation of countries, at both national and sub-national levels.

FAO/GIEWS Global Watch

22 February 2006

Severe Food Shortages Emerge in Parts of Tanzania

In **Tanzania**, the 2005/06 short "vuli" season crops in the bi-modal rainfall northern areas have failed due to severe drought conditions. Normally, the vuli crop accounts for about 30 percent of annual production of the bimodal areas. Also, the delay of the 'msimu' rains for the unimodal areas that usually starts in November has caused concern. Recent observed rains were a respite but not enough to reverse the situation.

Wholesale commodity prices continue to rise in key markets as domestic supply tightens in Tanzania; a situation projected to stay through to the second quarter of 2006. In January 2006, monthly national average maize prices stood at more than 85 percent higher than at the same time in 2005. The high increase in prices is evidenced across the country in both food surplus and deficit areas.

In response, a vulnerability assessment was carried out by the Food Security Information Team (FSIT), in late January 2006. The assessment has revealed a widespread prevalence of severe food shortages affecting an estimated 3.76 million people. Food assistance requirements, until the next harvest in May 2006, are estimated at about 100 000 tonnes. In addition, the provision of about 3 400 tonnes of early maturing seeds is required in order to assist the recovery of the farming community during the current agricultural season.

For a copy of the full report of the vulnerability assessment, please contactpask@kilimo.go.tz

FAO/GIEWS Global Watch

28 February 2006

Southern Africa update

Growing Season - Aside from delays at the beginning of the 2005/06 agricultural season, rainfall has been generally favourable throughout the region this year with highest precipitation in December 2005 in eastern areas, and during January/February 2006 in central and western areas. Conditions for crop growth have thus been generally good although late December localized heavy rains in southern Malawi and central Mozambique caused serious flooding and some damage to crops. In Zimbabwe, shortages and/or high prices of key inputs such as fertilizer, fuel, draft animal power and spare parts at planting time will likely result in relatively low yields. In Zambia, animal diseases such as East Coast Fever in Southern province and plant pests such as Army Worm were reported in Western and Southern provinces. Without proper control these can have negative effect on food production in affected areas.

Food Security Situation - The hungry season has reached its peak, with household food stocks nearly exhausted. Food shortages are generally reflected in rising staple food prices, especially in Zimbabwe and Malawi. Nearly 12 million people are in need of emergency food assistance at various degrees of severity in Zimbabwe, Malawi, Swaziland, Lesotho, Mozambique and Zambia. In Malawi, a significant amount of food aid has been pledged (around 200 000 tonnes), but the bulk of it is yet to arrive in country. The World Food Programme has appealed for an additional US$ 211 million dollars (equivalent to 446 000 tonnes of food) under its regional Protracted Relief and Recovery Operation for 2005/07, to bring the total to US$ 622 million.

Regional Balance - Of the total maize import requirement of 2.7 million tonnes for the subregion, excluding South Africa, for the current marketing year (April-March), an estimated 1.6 million tonnes of maize have so far been imported commercially, with an additional 543 000 tonnes of cereal food aid (mostly maize) being pledged/received. At the same time, due to a bumper 2005 maize harvest, maize stocks in the Republic of South Africa as of late April 2006 are forecast to be about 4 million tonnes.

FAO/GIEWS Global Watch

Niger

Brief on Assessment of Food Supply, Food Security and Outlook for 2005-2006

A preliminary assessment of food supply and food security was carried out by a technical mission jointly undertaken with the Government of Niger[1] , FAO/GIEWS, WFP (Headquarters, regional and country offices) and partners[2], from 21 October to 4 November 2005 followed by a high level inter-ministerial mission. The technical assessment included eight days of fieldwork which covered all of the country except the region of Diffa, data synthesis, report preparation in Niamey, and briefings for the government, UN agencies, and donor agency representatives[3].The inter-ministerial mission visited the regions of Zinder, Maradi, Tahoua and Dosso, and covered also Diffa.

The main conclusions are as follows:

- Due to generally favourable rainfall, agricultural and pasture production in Niger are above the five-year average. Final estimates of agricultural production, however, are likely to be revised slightly downward because the 2004/05 crisis constrained both seed and labour availability in 2005 and farmers could not take full advantage of favourable growing conditions.

- However, the 2004 crisis - considered by interviewed farmers and herders to be as serious as the 1973 and 1984 crises - has had very adverse, longer-term impact on household assets and savings, on levels of indebtedness, and on the health and nutritional status of the population. This has been caused by very limited food production, high livestock mortalities, and record high prices for millet and other cereals, which induced a major negative income effect on already impoverished households, and will constitute a very heavy burden in terms of debt reimbursement in 2005-2006. A sack of millet borrowed in the late spring of 2005, for instance, required at least 2.5 to 3 sacks of millet as repayment by October of this year. Considering the deep and widespread indebtedness accumulated in 2004/05, the reduction of the food stocks available to households at the beginning of the 2005/06 marketing year will be considerable.

- Grain markets at the time of the 2005 harvest are, therefore, being supplied with cereals in large quantities, sold by producers to meet pressing financial requirements or to reimburse debts. Prices have fallen, but remain higher than the five-year average for this time of the season. Regional grain supplies are generally abundant; therefore it is unlikely that the same rise in prices and flows of millet from Niger to Nigeria will occur during the coming marketing year as were seen in 2004/05. Although most of the large grain supply is likely to remain in Niger, the vast majority of farming households will have to buy cereals back to increase the stock they need to cover food consumption needs until the 2006 harvest.

- Given the seriously depleted state of most of the population's income, the mission anticipates that **within three to at most six months, up to one third of Nigerien rural households are at risk of having a major food access problem.** According to the most recent survey[4], out of a rural population of 9.24 million, 1.22 million are estimated to be severely food insecure, 1.99 million moderately food insecure due to limited access to food once their current stocks run out.

- Overall levels of moderate and severe acute malnutrition remain very high; admissions to therapeutic and feeding centres have barely levelled off from the very high levels of early 2005. According to the nation wide Government of Niger/UNICEF/CDC (Centre for Disease Control and Prevention-Atlanta) nutrition survey undertaken in September/October 2005, 15.3 % of children under 5 suffer from acute malnutrition. The rate is as high as 18 % in the Tahoua region and is around 16 % in the regions of Diffa, Maradi and Zinder. The under five mortality rate is 1.7 per 10,000 children per day and reached the critical threshold of 2 per 10,000 children per day in the regions of Zinder and Tahoua. In 2005, the combination of limited household food production, low incomes and record grain prices plunged many of the households into food insecurity, indebtedness, deteriorating coping strategies resulting in deep poverty and malnutrition. But there are also other factors causing malnutrition such as caring practices and cultural aspects which impact is however difficult to assess. Still, the troubling reality remains that rural livelihoods are becoming more unsustainable.

All available assessments on the food security and nutritional situation reach similar conclusions : i) the roots of

food insecurity are more chronic than transitory in nature ; ii) the roots of malnutrition are not necessarily the same as the causes of food insecurity, and require specific responses ; and iii) a better grasp of access to food, including market analysis, is essential to understand food security issues in Niger.

The mission emphasized that it is essential and urgent to implement activities that permit food insecure people to:

- Produce more food and generate income during the off-season (December-February);
- Enrol in cash or food-for-work schemes to 'stretch' their own supplies;
- Continue to have access to therapeutic and feeding centres, and school lunch programmes for children;
- Access herd reconstitution schemes, especially women who normally own and manage small ruminants;
- Replenish depleted cereal bank stocks;
- Access micro-finance to implement income generating activities.
- The sooner income generating activities and food transfer can be undertaken, the better, since money earned and food stocks retained by households while grain prices are still low is 'worth' much more than money earned later in the year. The mission also recommended to all parties that, in addition to a continuation of the current grain and livestock marketing monitoring systems, information on rates of malnutrition are included in the set of indicators followed by the various Nigerien institutions, especially the SAP (Early Warning Unit).

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1. Ministry of Agriculture, Ministry of Animal Resources, Prime Minister's office and Early Warning Unit.

2. Partners who participated are FEWS Net, CILSS/AGRHYMET and an observer from the US State Department's bureau for humanitarian affairs.

3. The briefing meeting was attended by representatives of Belgium, Denmark, the EC, France, the Netherlands and the United States.

4. Emergency Food Security Assessment for Niger; WFP, Sept. 2005.

FAO/GIEWS Global Watch

Somalia

KEY FINDINGS

An estimated **1.7 million** people in the North, Central and Southern Regions of Somalia are facing conditions of **Acute Food and Livelihood Crisis** or **Humanitarian Emergency** at least until June '06 (Table 1 and Map 1). If IDPs (Internally Displaced Populations) are included, estimated at 400,000, the total number of people in need of assistance throughout the country is **2.1 million** people. The crisis is especially severe in the Southern regions of Somalia, where an estimated 1.4 million people are in urgent need of humanitarian assistance. Results confirm previous early warnings of crop failure, considerable livestock deaths, rapidly increasing cereal prices, falling livestock prices, abnormal population movements, and extreme shortages of, and limited access to, **water and food** (see FSAU Monthly Briefs for November and December '05).

Depending on humanitarian access and response, the potential risks for outbreaks of resource based conflict, and food and water supply shortages; FSAU further warns that there is a **Moderate Risk** of **Famine** in the coming months for Gedo and surrounding areas. Threats against the humanitarian community in January led to the suspension of flights, and therefore access to, Garbaharey and Luq districts in Gedo. This incident underscores the potential for conflict, the complexity of the situation, and implications for humanitarian response.

Further stressing the plight of the people in the South is that the drought is regional in nature, extending into Ethiopia and Kenya and covering large areas of the greater Somali livelihood system. The regional scope of this drought translates directly into fewer coping options within the greater Somali livelihood system (e.g. reduced migration and stretched social support) and greater stress on already limited resources. FSAU initiated a series of cross border meetings with technical food security partners in Kenya and Ethiopia to develop an analytical and consistent understanding of the food security crisis in the bordering regions. This initial cross-border technical collaboration between regional partners (FEWSNET, WFP, SC [UK], CARE, UNDP, USAID, OXFAM, ALRMP, OCHA, Ministry of Agriculture, Kenya) and the application of the Integrated Food Security and Humanitarian Phase Classification to the regional drought clearly delineates the extent and severity of the humanitarian crisis (Map 2).The Southern region is faced with a crisis that will continue to deepen over the coming months. The effects of the drought will only be compounded and worsen over the long Jilaal dry season (Jan-April) and depending on the extent of the loss of livelihoods and lives during this period, the region will require continued humanitarian and development support for several months to come. If the Gu '06 rains (April-June) fail or are again below normal in the southern region, the entire region will likely face a **humanitarian catastrophe** on a scale that could be comparable to the 1993 famine in Southern Somalia. It must be emphasized that the humanitarian response needed for the current crisis is a multi-sector, 'twin-track' approach - addressing both the immediate life saving needs (food, water, health, nutrition), but also simultaneously addressing the medium-term livelihood needs in terms of the protection and rehabilitation of productive assets(livestock, seeds and tools, boreholes, water catchments, irrigation canals, rangelands). If the focus is only on addressing immediate needs – whole livelihood systems could degenerate into relief-reliant communities, deepening poverty and prolonging the humanitarian crisis.

IMPLICATIONS FOR RESPONSE:

A full range of response options is necessary, including: food aid, cash assistance, water relief and rehabilitation, livestock herd survival programmes (including destocking, breeding stock protection, provision of fodder), health and nutrition assistance, and protection of vulnerable groups.

- **Timeframe of Response: Jan. - May:** Humanitarian response focused on immediate needs and medium-term protection and rehabilitation of assets. **June – December:** If Gu '06 rains are good, continuation of immediate needs assistance for most vulnerable populations and full continuation of activities focused on protection and rehabilitation of assets. If Gu '06 rains fail, increased and continued immediate needs response with expanded coverage and intensity.

- **Implementation of Response:** Somali authorities, civil society, and humanitarian actors urgently need to step up interventions to prevent a large scale disaster. Somali leaders will be critical in ensuring security and access to affected areas.

- **Financial Response:** Donors must urgently ensure implementing agencies and organisations have the full financial backing to implement the necessary responses. As demonstrated in previous crises, the Somali Diaspora can play a key role through remittances to help mitigate the crisis.

- **Consistent Regional Response:** A balanced, needs-based humanitarian response for the entire drought affected region (Somalia, Ethiopia & Kenya) is necessary in order to prevent a further escalation of the crisis through cross border population movements and outbreaks of conflict over

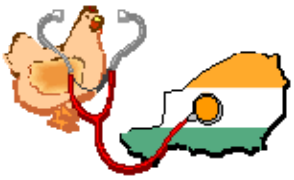
resources.

- **Crisis as Opportunity:** The severity of the crisis will provoke critical awareness of Somalia's situation from both the international community and Somali people's perspective. Harnessed constructively, this energy can be used to address key underlying issues that will continue to undermine Somali livelihoods indefinitely if left unchecked. Key opportunities include, demonstrating the benefits of a functioning civil society through Transitional Federal Government leadership, and reversing the trend of massive and nearly irreversible degradation of rangelands through deforestation for charcoal production.

- **Contingency Planning:** Early climate forecasts indicate the possibility of below normal Gu '06 rains. Thus, all humanitarian actors should prepare for what will be a further deterioration in the situation, which could include widespread famine.

Grippe aviaire: mise à jour*
Réseau SANI (Santé Animale au Niger)

* Les informations ci-dessous proviennent du service de santé animale du Niger. La FAO décline toute responsabilité quant aux informations ou données présentées sur cette page, et ne se porte pas garante de leur exactitude.



Réseau SANI
Santé Animale au Niger

Grippe aviaire

Vendredi 30 juin

Boko Mai Gao : le virus en sursis

Lors des opérations d'abattage sanitaire des volailles à Boko Mai Gao, des prélèvements avaient été réalisés avant la destruction des cadavres.

Les résultats de ces prélèvements viennent de confirmer la **persistance du virus H5N1** chez un nombre important des volailles qui ont été abattues (6 prélèvements sur 10 sont positif au virus H5N1).
Il s'agit vraisemblablement de volailles qui avaient survécu à la maladie apparue début mai dans ce village et qui continuaient à être "porteuses" du virus.

Ceci signifie notamment qu'entre l'apparition de la grippe aviaire début mai et la destruction des volailles début juin, ces volailles infectées sont restées une **source possible de contagion** pendant plus d'un mois.

C'est l'occasion de rappeler quelques règles indispensables de police sanitaire en pareil cas :

- la stricte nécessité d'**interrompre tout mouvement de volailles** dans le secteur (périmètre infecté de 5 km de diamètre + périmètre sanitaire de 15 km, ainsi que l'interdiction des marchés dans tout le département) dès la suspicion de la maladie, sans attendre les résultats de confirmation des laboratoires. Le contrôle de la circulation des volailles et la maîtrise des restrictions de leur commerce sont la clé de la lutte contre la grippe aviaire.

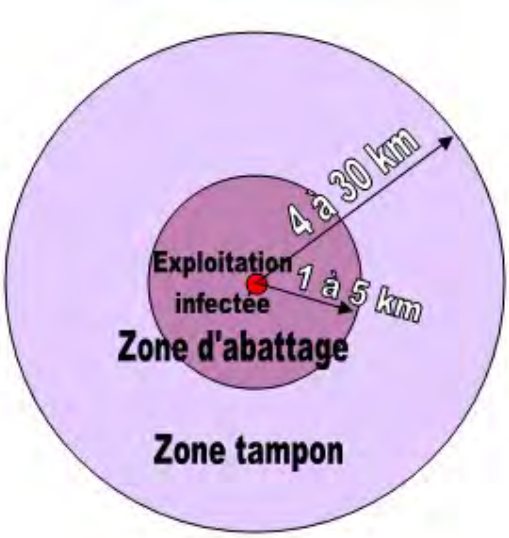
- la nécessité de **procéder le plus rapidement possible aux opérations d'abattage sanitaire**, avant diffusion de la maladie, si possible bien avant l'obtention des résultats de confirmation du laboratoire de référence.
Les résultats intermédiaires du laboratoire national suffisent largement, et parfois même, avant tout résultat de laboratoire, les informations épidémiologiques recueillies sur place s'avèrent souvent suffisantes pour distinguer la grippe aviaire de la maladie de Newcastle (très forte mortalités sur moins de 4 jours sur plusieurs espèces de volailles). Se référer à la *"fiche de décision"* du plan d'intervention pour

plus de détails.

- la nécessité de procéder à une **enquête épidémiologique rétrospective** pour déterminer si des mouvements de volailles non maîtrisés auraient pu permettre la diffusion de la maladie au delà périmètre infecté (où toutes les volailles ont été détruites).

Ces résultats sont aussi l'occasion de relancer le **débat sur le recours à la vaccination** dans la zone située autour du périmètre infecté (vaccination péri-focale en anneau) afin d'augmenter le niveau de protection et les garanties pour enrayer la diffusion de la maladie.

C'est le choix qu'a fait la **Côte d'Ivoire**, alors même que son statut de pays exportateur l'expose à davantage de mesures de rétorsions commerciales du fait du recours à la vaccination.

Rappel sur le zonage sanitaire	**zone d'abattage** ("périmètre infecté" au Niger) Le rayon varie en fonction des pays de 1 km (Indonésie) à 5 km (Thaïlande). Au Niger, il était de 5 km à Magaria et de 2,5 km à Boko Mai Gao. Toutes les volailles y sont abattues et détruites et un vide sanitaire d'au moins 21 jours y est ensuite instauré. **zone tampon** ("cordon sanitaire" au Niger) Le rayon varie de 4 km (Indonésie) à 30 km (Japon). Au Niger, il était de 15 km à Magaria et de 7,5 km à Boko Mai Gao. Commerce et circulation de volailles y sont interdits.
 C'est dans la zone tampon que l'on procède éventuellement à la vaccination péri-focale en anneau.	

Même si le recours à la vaccination n'est pas officiellement interdit au Niger, il devrait néanmoins être débattu, éventuellement décidé et organisé au niveau national. Cette démarche permettrait d'éviter les initiatives éparses voire anarchiques, comme cela se passe au **Nigeria** voisin, alors même que ce pays a pourtant interdit la vaccination contre la grippe aviaire et que des vaccins d'origine inconnue y circulent sans contrôle. Une vaccination anarchique est le plus sûr moyen de **masquer une circulation virale silencieuse** qui assurerait une présence prolongée du virus dans la région.

Une vaccination contrôlée permet a contrario de définir un plan de contrôle sérologique de surveillance de la maladie adapté à la souche vaccinale utilisée.

Ci-joint le *Rapport d'abattage et d'indemnisation dans le foyer de grippe aviaire hautement pathogène de Boko Mai Gao*.

Indonésie : pas de virus recombiné

Les experts se sont prononcés sur le cas de cette famille de 8 personnes atteintes par la grippe aviaire en Indonésie le mois dernier (voir revues de presse SANI et EISMV) dont 7 membres sont décédés.

Il s'agit bien de contaminations inter-humaines, mais le virus incriminé n'est pas un virus recombiné qui aurait pu être à l'origine d'une pandémie majeure de grippe humaine, comme on la redoute depuis 2 ans.

Ce ne sont pas les premiers cas isolés de transmission inter-humaine de H5N1 mais ce sont les cas liés et concentrés ("cluster") les plus nombreux connus à ce jour. Ces contaminations inter-humaines s'expliquent par la grande promiscuité des membres de cette famille qui a facilité la contagion par aérosols de forte concentration virale.

Ci-joint un document consacré à ces cas, compte-rendu de l'Institut français de veille sanitaire (InVS) qui participait à l'expertise.

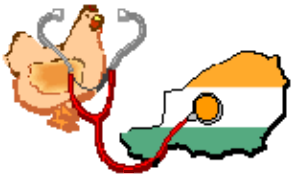
Informations générales

Ci-joint les derniers bulletins de veille de l'EISMV reçues pendant mon absence.

N° d'appel téléphonique ***TAM-TAM volailles mortes*** *:* **99 61 17**

Pour ne plus recevoir ces courriels d'information, répondre directement à ce message

Contact Olivier Pinguet, Assistant Technique au MRA
opinguet@intnet.ne



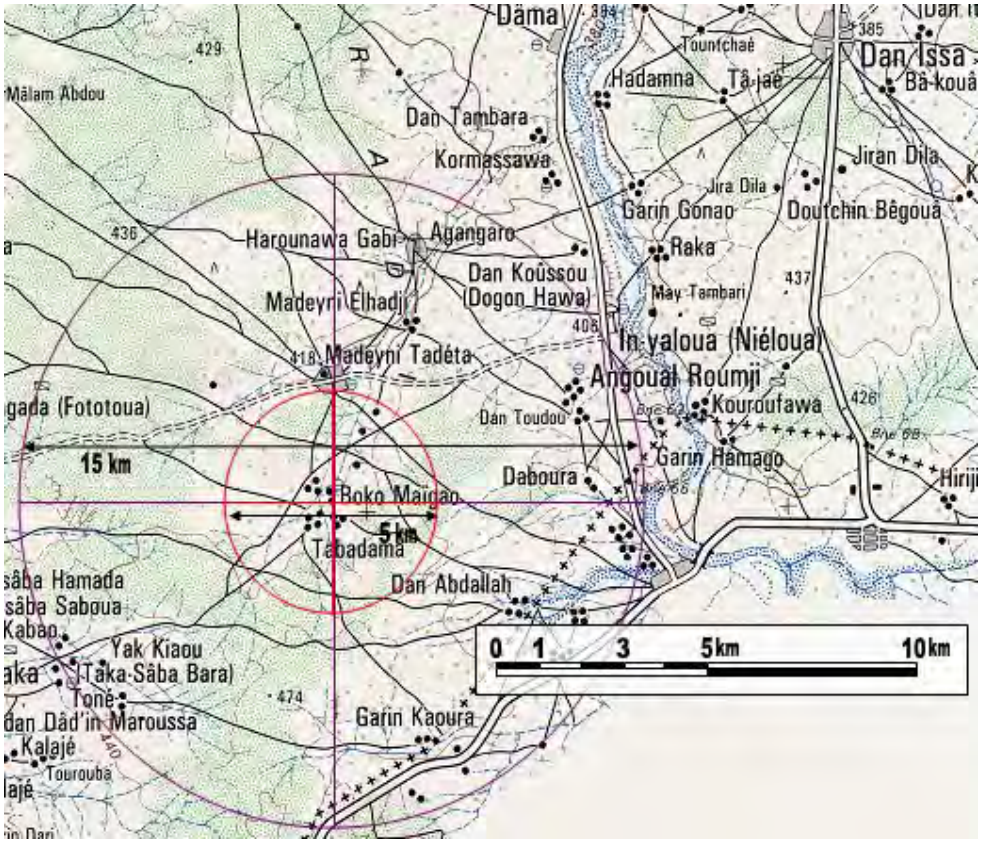
Réseau SANI
Santé Animale au

Grippe aviaire
Vendredi 9 juin

Niger

Abattage à Boko MaiGao et dans les 2 localités voisines de Tabadama et Najikofa

La grippe aviaire ayant fait de nouveau son apparition au Niger - 3 mois après la déclaration des premiers cas de la maladie dans le pays - dans la région de Maradi et après confirmation par le laboratoire de référence de Padoue (Italie) de la présence du virus Influenza de sous-type H5N1 sur les prélèvements réalisés à Boko Mai Gao, commune de Gabi, département de Madarounfa, les opérations d'abattage et d'indemnisation ont commencé ce jour dans ces localités dans le périmètre infecté de 5 km. Ces opérations seront d'un ratissage d'un jour afin de s'assurer qu'aucune volaille n'a été laissé.



Informations Générales

Les dernières conclusions de la FAO et de l'OIE sur le rôle présumé des oiseaux migrateurs dans la crise de la grippe aviaire.
Notez que le titre parle de rôle "CONFIRME" des oiseaux sauvages, mais que le texte admet que c'est essentiellement par le commerce de volailles que H5N1 s'est répandu, surtout en Afrique. Les lobbies seraient derrière ?!

Ce qui est sûr c'est que d'autres investigations ou études sont nécessaires pour bien comprendre le phénomène.

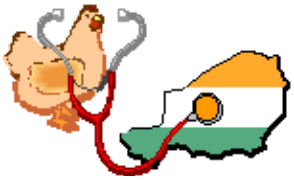
Le rôle des oiseaux sauvages confirmé dans la crise de la grippe aviaire, Les scientifiques pointent aussi du doigt les élevages de volailles :
http://www.fao.org/newsroom/fr/news/2006/1000312/index.html

Voler en liberté sous étroite surveillance, Plan pour un système de suivi mondial des oiseaux sauvages :
http://www.fao.org/newsroom/fr/news/2006/1000311/index.html

N° de téléphone ***TAM-TAM volailles mortes*** *:* **99 61 17**
(N° d'alerte sanitaire dédié aux déclarations de mortalités de volailles)

Pour ne plus recevoir ces courriels d'information, répondre directement à ce message

Contact Olivier Pinguet, Assistant Technique au MRA
opinguet@intnet.ne



Réseau SANI
Santé Animale au Niger

Grippe aviaire
Vendredi 2 juin

Madaroumfa : H5N1 confirmé

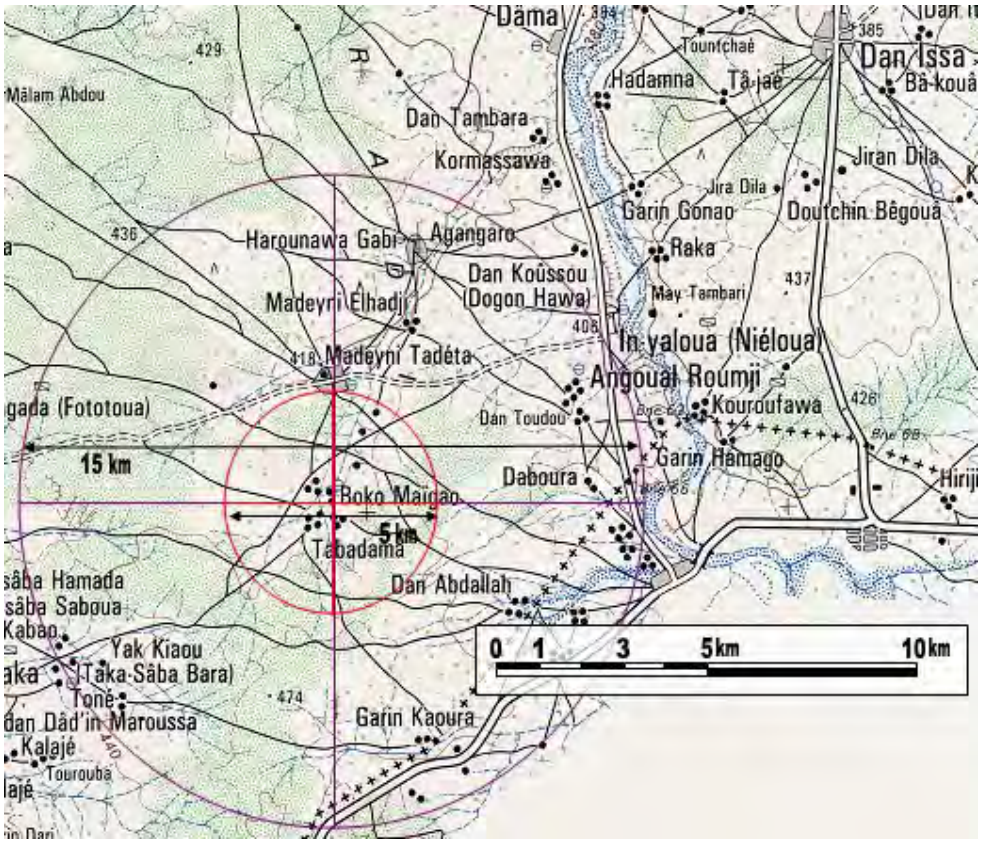
La grippe aviaire fait de nouveau son apparition au Niger - 3 mois après la déclaration des premiers cas de la maladie dans le pays - dans la région de Maradi.

Le laboratoire de référence de Padoue (Italie) vient en effet de confirmer la présence du virus Influenza de sous-type H5N1 sur les prélèvements réalisés à Boko Mai Gao, commune de Gabi, département de Madaroumfa.

C'est le 4ème foyer confirmé de la maladie au Niger après ceux confirmés le 27 février dernier à Magaria ville, Gallawa Riga et Dan Bardé (tous trois situés dans le département de Magaria, région de Zinder).

Comme à Magaria, les mesures de police sanitaire déjà en place (interdiction des

marchés et du commerce des volailles, contrôles routiers et épidémiosurveillance renforcée dans la commune de Gabi et les communes voisines) seront complétées le semaine prochaine par les mesures d'abattage sanitaire des volailles encore vivantes à Boko MaiGao et dans les 2 localités voisines de Tabadama et Najiko.



Depuis l'apparition début mai des mortalités de volailles à Boko Mai Gao, la surveillance active s'est mise en place autour du foyer, en dépit des moyens de fortune dont disposent les services vétérinaires localement.

Elle a permit de s'assurer que le foyer reste pour l'instant circonscrit.

Ci-joint l'article de l'AFP consacré au foyer de grippe aviaire de Boko MaiGao

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Informations Générales

Vous trouverez ci-joint :
1. le dernier bulletin de veille de l'EISMV
2. la dernière revue de presse SANI

PS - Je serai absent pendant les 3 prochaines semaines.

Etant données les contributions consacrées au Niger à la communication sur la Grippe aviaire, ça ne devrait pas être préjudiciable à l'information sur l'épizootie Inshallah.

*N° de téléphone **TAM-TAM volailles mortes** : **99 61 17***
(N° d'alerte sanitaire dédié aux déclarations de mortalités de volailles)

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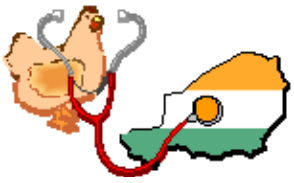


Réseau SANI
Santé Animale au Niger

Grippe aviaire

Mardi 30 mai

Situation financière du dispositif de lutte

Un bilan des contributions financières au dispositif de lutte contre la Grippe aviaire a été soumis à l'appréciat Comité National et des partenaires techniques et financiers.

Les différents acteurs du dispositif sont invités à examiner sa dernière mise à jour, qui se présente comme s

Ventilation des contributions par Partenaire

Partenaire	Dépensés	Mobilisables	Annoncés	Re
UNICEF		432 000 000 F		
BAD		198 750 000 F	265 000 000 F	
AFD / PSEAU	29 257 600 F	100 000 000 F		
OMS		65 000 000 F		600
Plan Niger	18 208 300 F	41 000 000 F		
PNUD		26 500 000 F		
UNFPA		26 000 000 F		
Ambassade USA	25 000 000 F	25 000 000 F	110 000 000 F	
FAO	6 947 020 F	16 408 270 F	23 850 000 F	
Nigeria		15 000 000 F		
Ambassade de France	7 844 952 F	14 492 952 F	65 595 700 F	
UE / PACE dp6	1 000 000 F	1 000 000 F	7 247 300 F	
Association SOS Faune du Niger	106 800 F	106 800 F		
CIRAD	dons en nature			
CERMES (Centre de recherche médicale et scientifique)	dons en nature			

Institut ERASMUS, Rotterdam	dons en nature			
PEV (Programme élargi de vaccination)	dons en nature			
Banque Mondiale			532 985 000 F	
Non précisé				
Royaume de Luxembourg				
UE / PACE Avenant dp6			86 245 000 F	
UE / ON			15 000 000 F	
Total	**88 364 672 F**	**961 258 022 F**	**1 105 923 000 F**	**600**

Légende :

Etat des contributions	
Dépensés	indique les fonds qui sont effectivement dépensés (voire les dons en nature qui sont réalisés)
Mobilisables	indique les fonds qui sont effectivement mobilisables par le pays auprès d'un partenaire
Annoncés	indique les contributions financières au dispositif annoncées officiellement par un partenaire
Requête	indique les requêtes de financement sollicitées par le Niger auprès d'un partenaire

Ventilation des contributions par Rubrique

Rubrique	Dépensés	Mobilisables	Annoncés	Requête
Information, Communication et Education		487 500 000 F	9 150 000 F	
Non précisé	4 736 080 F	214 103 040 F	597 610 700 F	600 000 000 F
Pharmacie et Vaccins		70 000 000 F	20 000 000 F	
Matériel d'intervention et de protection	26 869 372 F	49 379 372 F	78 560 000 F	
Indemnisation volailles	18 853 600 F	42 400 000 F	100 000 000 F	
Communication	18 208 300 F	41 000 000 F		
Véhicules et motos		25 000 000 F	150 000 000 F	
Carburant et lubrifiants	7 701 800 F	11 956 800 F	7 000 000 F	
Indemnités agents		9 500 000 F	2 000 000 F	
Laboratoire et chaîne du froid - Equipement	4 826 580 F	7 416 580 F	67 852 300 F	
Fournitures et consommables	649 000 F	1 947 000 F	300 000 F	
Consultants	210 940 F	1 055 230 F	30 300 000 F	
Police santaire et surveillance	6 000 000 F		4 000 000 F	
Bureautique			23 650 000 F	
Formations, séminaires et ateliers			15 000 000 F	
Télécommunication - Equipement			500 000 F	
Police sanitaire et surveillance	309 000 F			
Total	**88 364 672 F**	**961 258 022 F**	**1 105 923 000 F**	**600 000 000 F**

Ventilation des contributions par Unité

Unité responsable	Dépensés	Mobilisables	Annoncés	Requête
Communication	18 208 300 F	530 500 000 F		
Santé Animale	51 302 772 F	243 858 022 F	737 703 000 F	
Santé Humaine	0 F	144 500 000 F	268 220 000 F	600 000 000 F

Indemnisation volailles	18 853 600 F	42 400 000 F	100 000 000 F	
Environnement				
Total	**88 364 672 F**	**961 258 022 F**	**1 105 923 000 F**	**600 000 000 F**

Oiseaux sauvages et diffusion de la maladie

Ci-joint le bulletin de veille de l'EISMV, où l'on apprend notamment la tenue d'une conférence scientifique à
30 et 31 mai 2006, organisée par la FAO (Organisation Mondiale pour l'Alimentation et l'Agriculture) et l'OIE
(Organisation mondiale de la santé animale) consacrée au rôle des oiseaux sauvages dans la diffusion de l'in
aviaire hautement pathogène.

International Scientific Conference on Avian Influenza and Wild Birds

C'est l'occasion de rappeler les informations suivantes :

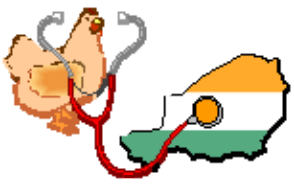
1. plusieurs centaines d'oiseaux sauvages ont fait l'objet de prélèvements au Niger et en Afrique de l'Ou
   fins de dépistage du virus IAHP H5N1. A notre connaissance, aucun n'a été trouvé positif à ce jour (e
   faîte d'oiseaux en captivité).
2. les résultats des enquêtes épidémiologiques réalisées dans les 3 foyers Nigériens du département de
   (Magaria ville, Gallawa Riga et Dan Bardé) ont permis d'établir l'origine commerciale de la maladie (v
   achetées au Nigeria avant l'interdiction d'importation).
3. les causes de la large diffusion de la maladie au Nigeria et son introduction même dans le pays sembl
   étroitement liées à une maîtrise insuffisante des échanges commerciaux des volailles.

Pour autant, le rôle des oiseaux sauvages dans la diffusion de la maladie dans le monde, même s'il est limité
reconnu (introduction en Europe notamment).
La surveillance de l'avifaune sauvage africaine reste donc d'actualité.

*N° de téléphone **TAM-TAM volailles mortes** : **99 61 17***
(N° d'alerte sanitaire dédié aux déclarations de mortalités de volailles)

Pour ne plus recevoir ces courriels d'information, répondre directement à ce message

Contact Olivier Pinguet, Assistant Technique au MRA
opinguet@intnet.ne



Grippe aviaire

Jeudi 25 mai

Suspicion de Boko MaiGao

1. Les **prélèvements** réalisés ces dernières semaines dans le cadre de l'épidémiosurveillance vétérinaire de la grippe aviaire ont quitté Niamey mardi soir pour le laboratoire de référence de Padoue (Italie).
   Ils comprenaient notamment les prélèvements réalisés à Boko MaiGao, commune de Gabi, département de Madaroumfa, siège d'une forte suspicion de grippe aviaire.

1. Afin de pouvoir assurer **l'épidémiosurveillance** ces prochaines semaines dans la région de Boko Mai Gao, les Services vétérinaires de Maradi ont exprimé leurs besoins, notamment en matière de carburant à hauteur de 760 000 F CFA.

2. En attendant les résultats de Padoue, les mesures de **police sanitaire** suivantes devraient être mises en place : prise d'un arrêté de mise sous surveillance de la zone, définitions des périmètres, mise en place de contrôles routiers, interdiction du transport des volailles et de la tenue des marchés de volailles dans la zone.

- Une **enquête épidémiologique** devrait également tenter de déterminer l'origine des volailles infectées ayant provoqué les fortes mortalités observées.

Abattage sanitaire au Burkina

Les mesures de recensement, d'abattage et de désinfection ont commencé au niveau des 3 foyers de grippe aviaire déclarés le 19 mai dernier par le Burkina Faso.

Les interventions étaient même terminées en début de semaine à Bobo Dioulasso, moins de 4 jours après la connaissance du foyer.

L'enquête épidémiologique en cours tentera de déterminer la source de l'infection.

Revue de presse

Ci-joint la revue de presse SANI, où l'on apprend notamment que :

1. En Indonésie, on redoute que la grande pandémie n'ait débuté
2. En Egypte, on enregistre le décès d'une 6ème victime
3. En Tunisie, on stocke du Tamiflu (100 000 doses)
4. En Europe, on congèle et stocke les volailles pour soutenir les cours
5. En Côte d'Ivoire on danse sur la grippe aviaire, Simone Gbagbo mange du poulet pendant que d'autres préfèrent le hérisson...

N° d'appel téléphonique ***TAM-TAM volailles mortes*** *:* **99 61 17**

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Réseau SANI
Santé Animale au Niger

Grippe aviaire

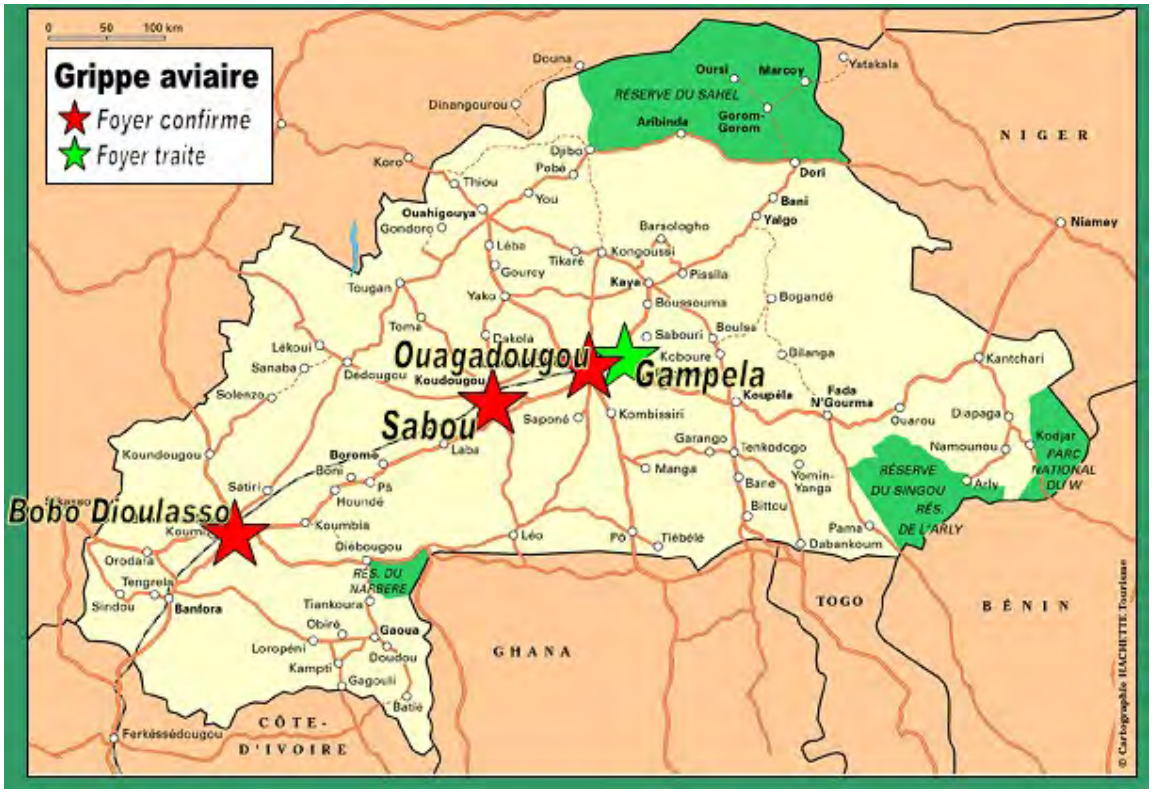
Lundi 22 mai

3 nouveaux foyers au Burkina Faso

Le Ministre des Ressources Animales du Burkina Faso a annoncé vendredi soir la confirmation de trois nouveaux cas d'influenza aviaire de type H5N1 sur des poulets.

Ils sont situés :

1. Secteur 2 à Ouagadougou (en plein centre ville)
2. Secteur 30 à Bobo-Dioulasso
3. dans le centre ville de Sabou, petite localité sur l'axe commercial majeur du pays, à 85 Km de Ouagadougou en direction de Bobo.



Dans les 3 cas, ce ne sont ni des élevages villageois, ni des élevages modernes qui sont touchés mais de petits élevages familiaux des villes, situation telle que celle observée au Caire en Égypte, où la maladie fait également des victimes parmi les populations humaines (5 cas mortels à ce jour).

Il se confirme là encore que le commerce des volailles est le grand responsable de la

diffusion de la maladie, certains commerçants abusant la confiance de clients non averti et non professionnels.

C'est grâce à la surveillance épidémiologique active que ces trois prélèvements ont pu être effectués.

Ces données devront être prises en compte pour mieux orienter le dépistage actif de la maladie, notamment vers l'élevage urbain et informel.

Ministère des Ressources Animales du Burkina Faso
Source : www.sisa.africa-web.org
Dr. Patrick RAIMBAULT, Chef du Projet ARIOPE

Situation au Niger

Les analyses effectuées au Laboratoire National Vétérinaire de Niamey sur les prélèvements réalisés à Boko Mai Gao, département de Madaroumfa, ne permettent pas pour l'instant d'exclure la grippe aviaire.
Vous trouverez ci-joint :

1. un article paru dans le journal "Le Républicain" du 18 mai dernier
2. le bulletin d'information de l'OMS Niger sur la grippe aviaire

N° d'appel téléphonique ***TAM-TAM volailles mortes*** *:* **99 61 17**
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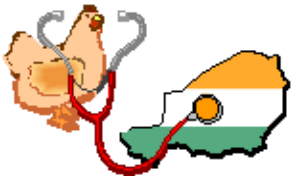


Réseau SANI
Santé Animale au Niger

Grippe aviaire

Vendredi 19 mai

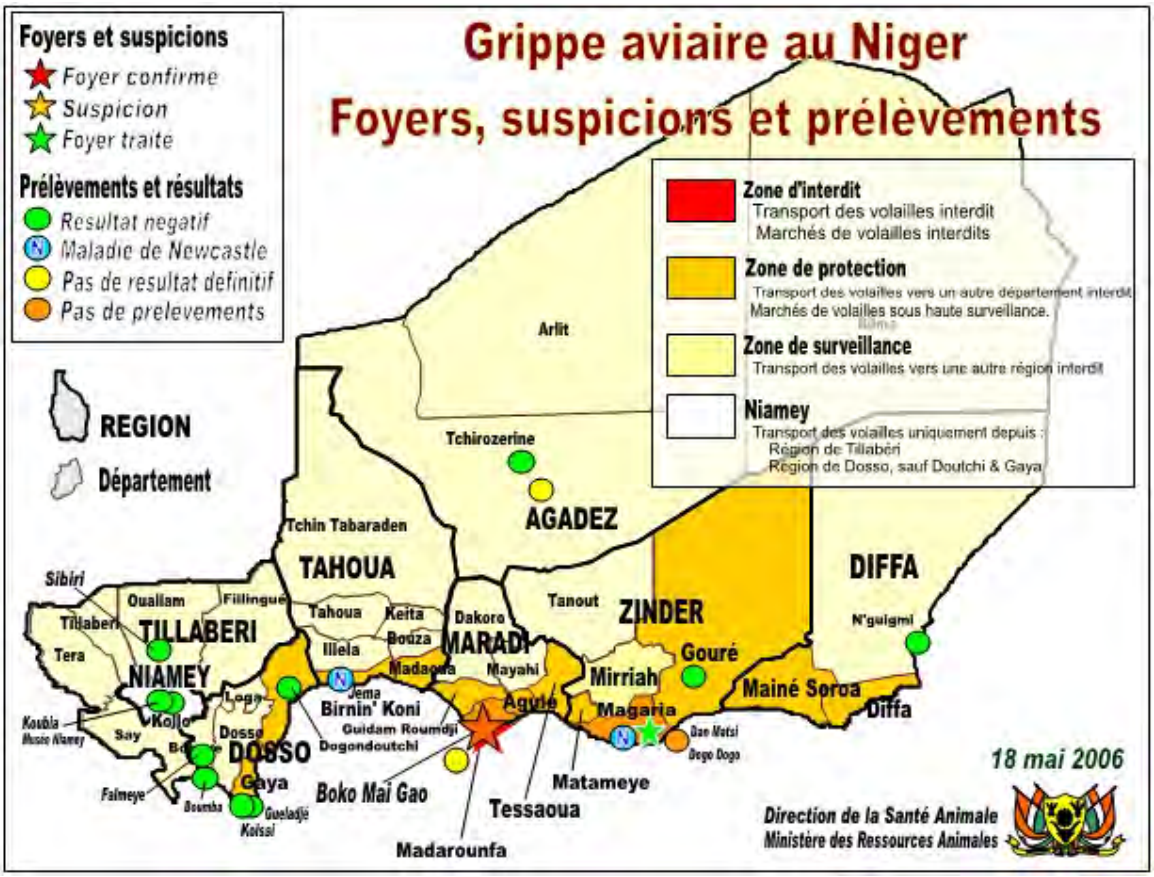
Situation au Nigeria

Les autorités sanitaires de l'État de Kano, dans le nord du Nigeria, ont confirmé mercredi la découverte d'un nouveau foyer du virus hautement pathogène H5N1 de la grippe aviaire dans un élevage de Kakara, à 15 km environ de la ville de Kano.

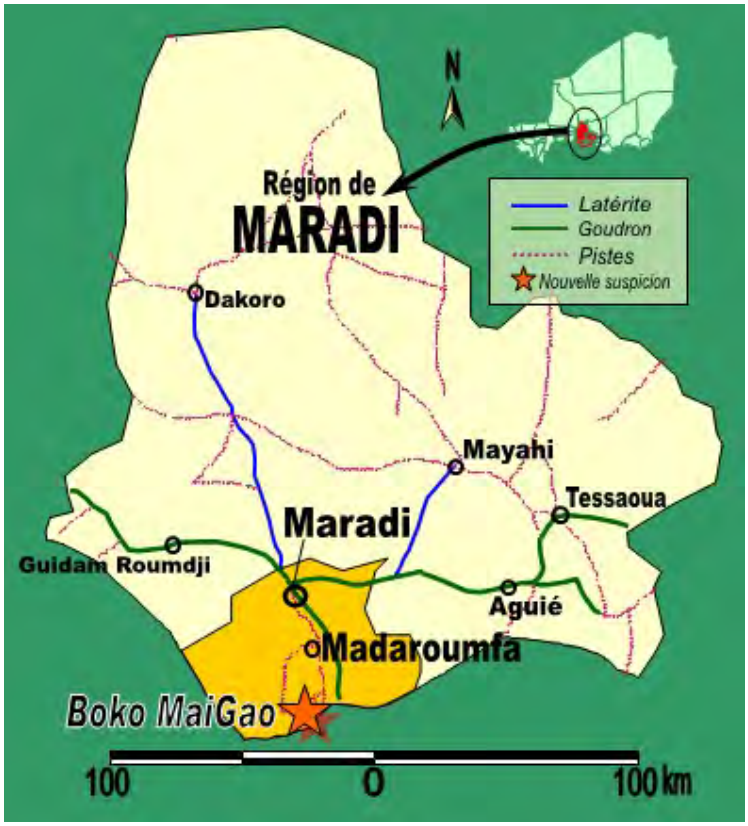
Cela faisait près d'un mois qu'aucun foyer n'avait été officiellement déclaré au Nigeria.

Situation au Niger

Plus d'un mois après la fin des opérations d'abattage sanitaire à Magaria, la déclaration d'infection devrait être officiellement levée par le préfêt, ce qui permettrait au département de quitter la zone d'interdit pour celle de protection.
Les marchés de volailles pourraient donc de nouveau s'y tenir.



En revanche, la possibilité de placer par précaution le département de Madaroumfa en zone d'interdit devrait prochainement être débattu, en raison des fortes mortalités de volailles enregistrées à Boko Mai Gao et de la proximité du site avec le Nigeria, tout en tenant compte des incidences économiques que cela pourrait avoir sur la filière avicole de Maradi.



Revues de presse

Ci-joint les derniers articles sélectionnés sur la Grippe aviaire :

1. **Veille d'information de l'École vétérinaire de Dakar (Bulletin n°27)**
2. **Sélection SANI,** notamment :

- Grippe aviaire : pourquoi on a tout mis sur le dos des **canards sauvages**
- **Nigeria** : Nouveau foyer de grippe aviaire confirmé dans le nord du pays
- **Cameroun** : Reprise de la consommation de la volaille
- **Côte d'Ivoire**:
  - 1000 boîtes de "Tamiflu" acquises
  - des vendeurs de poulets ivoiriens accusent les "Blancs"

*N° d'appel téléphonique **TAM-TAM volailles mortes** :* **99 61 17**
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Réseau SANI

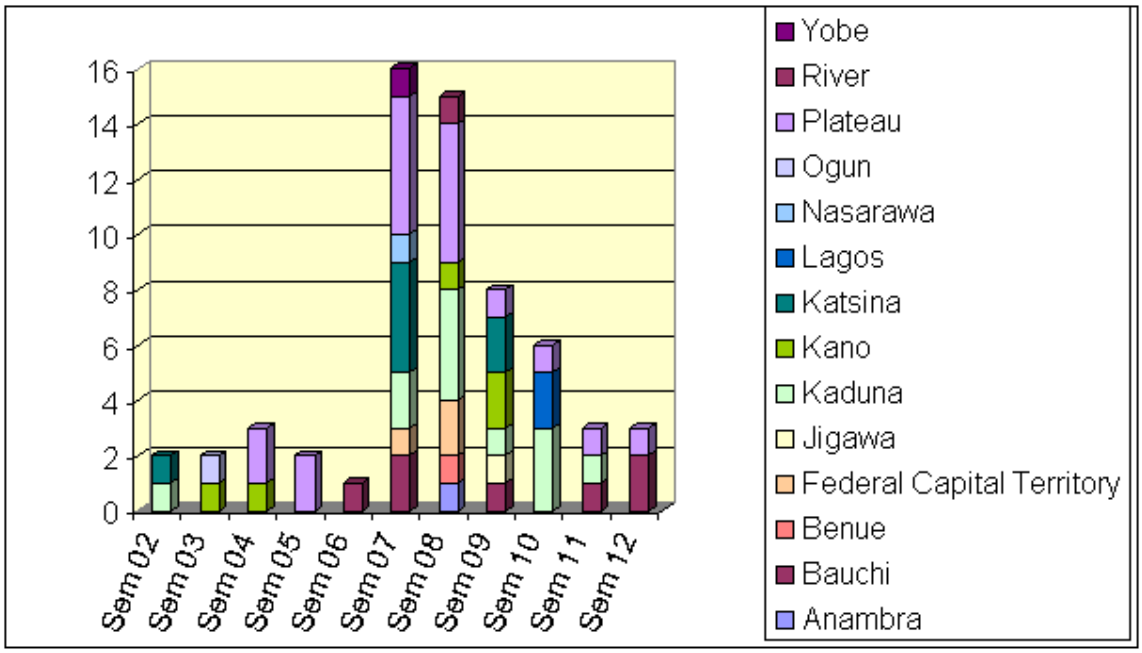
Grippe aviaire

Lundi 15 mai

Situation au Nigeria

Les dernières informations OIE en provenance du Nigeria datent du 6 avril dernier et indiquent l'existence de foyers confirmés de grippe aviaire (H5N1) répartis dans 14 états, en particulier dans le nord du pays. Renseignements pris, la situation actuelle se chiffrerait désormais à 85 foyers.

Nombre de foyers déclarés de grippe aviaire au Nigeria au 6 avril 2006



Source : OIE (Cf. fichiers joints)

Certaines informations de source non officielle sont plutôt préoccupantes. Elles indiquent que la situation ne pas tout à fait maîtrisée et que les mesures de police sanitaire adaptées en pareil cas seraient mal appliquée La plupart des foyers déclarés concernent des élevages modernes en bâtiment, et peu de cas serait fait des nombreux foyers qui se propagent de village en village, parmi la volaille de brousse.

Source : OCHA - http://www.humanitarianinfo.org/westafrica/Maps/Avian_Influenza_Outbreak_Africa_27april2006.pdf

Le risque de nouvelle apparition de la grippe aviaire au Niger en provenance du Nigeria doit donc être consid
attentivement.
A l'heure où le commerce et la circulation des volailles reprend au Niger, la vigilance aux frontières reste dor
que jamais de rigueur.

Situation au Niger

Une nouvelle suspicion est enregistrée à Boko Maigao, commune de Gabi, 40 km au sud de Madaroumafa, p
la frontière avec le Nigeria.

Elle concerne la déclaration le 2 mai dernier de la mortalité d'environ 530 volailles rapportée sur les 2 semai
Des prélèvements ont été réalisés et acheminés jusqu'au laboratoire vétérinaire de Niamey. Les analyses so
cours.

Situation financière

Une revue budgétaire des fonds alloués au dispositif de lutte contre la grippe aviaire a été présentée en réun
Comité National de lutte jeudi 11 avril dernier.

Vous trouverez ci-dessous une synthèse mise à jour des informations présentées par partenaire, par rubriqu
unité.
Cette mise à jour reste incomplète; elle ne prend notamment pas compte certaines contributions qui ont été
réalisée au niveau déconcentré (régional, voire départemental).

Partenaire	Exécuté	Acquis	Annonces	Req
UNICEF		432 000 000 F		
PSEAU (AFD)	28 948 600 F	124 853 600 F		
OMS		65 000 000 F		600 0
Plan Niger		41 000 000 F		
PNUD		26 500 000 F		
Ambassade USA		25 000 000 F	110 000 000 F	
FAO	4 947 020 F	18 408 270 F	45 700 000 F	
Nigeria		15 000 000 F		
Ambassade de France	7 844 952 F	14 142 952 F	65 595 700 F	
PACE 1	1 000 000 F	1 000 000 F	6 247 300 F	
Association SOS Faune du Niger	106 800 F	106 800 F		

CIRAD		don en nature		
CERMES (Centre de recherche médicale et scientifique)		don en nature		
Institut ERASMUS, Rotterdam		don en nature		
PEV (Programme élargi de vaccination)		don en nature		
Banque Mondiale			572 985 000 F	
BAD			185 000 000 F	
UE			15 000 000 F	
Non précisé				
Royaume de Luxembourg				
UNFPA		26 000 000 F		
Total	**42 847 372 F**	**789 011 622 F**	**1 000 528 000 F**	**600 0**

L'information et la communication demeurent un enjeu majeur dans la lutte. C'est ce que met en évidence la présentation par rubrique :

Rubrique	Exécuté	Acquis	Annonces	Requête
Information, Communication et Education		528 500 000 F	21 750 000 F	
Pharmacie et Vaccins		70 000 000 F	30 000 000 F	
Véhicules et motos		35 000 000 F	308 000 000 F	
Indemnisation volailles	18 853 600 F	45 853 600 F	160 000 000 F	
Carburant et lubrifiants	7 701 800 F	17 606 800 F	12 000 000 F	
Indemnités agents		9 500 000 F	8 000 000 F	
Matériel d'intervention et de protection	1 869 372 F	49 379 372 F	83 680 000 F	
Laboratoire et chaîne du froid - Equipement	4 826 580 F	8 816 580 F	91 352 300 F	
Police santaire et surveillance	6 000 000 F	6 000 000 F	27 850 000 F	
Fournitures et consommables	649 000 F	1 947 000 F	3 300 000 F	
Non précisé	2 736 080 F	15 353 040 F	82 145 700 F	600 000 000 F
Bureautique			43 650 000 F	
Consultations			40 000 000 F	
Formations, séminaires et ateliers			25 000 000 F	
Télécommunication - Equipement			12 500 000 F	
Entretien matériel			6 000 000 F	
Consultants	210 940 F	1 055 230 F	5 300 000 F	
Total	**42 847 372 F**	**789 011 622 F**	**960 528 000 F**	**600 000 000 F**

et par unité responsable :

Unité responsable	Exécuté	Acquis	Annonces	Requête
Communication		530 500 000 F		
Santé Animale	23 993 772 F	147 658 022 F	800 528 000 F	
Santé Humaine		65 000 000 F		600 000 000 F
Indemnisation volailles	18 853 600 F	45 853 600 F	160 000 000 F	
Environnement				
Total	**42 847 372 F**	**789 011 622 F**	**960 528 000 F**	**600 000 000 F**

N° d'appel téléphonique ***TAM-TAM volailles mortes*** *:* **99 61 17**

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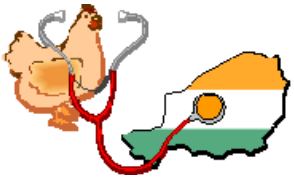

Réseau SANI
Santé Animale au Niger

Grippe aviaire

Vendredi 12 mai

Vers la fin du vide sanitaire à Magaria

Une mission du Ministère des Ressources Animales consacrée à l'évaluation du respect du vide sanitaire à Magaria est de retour sur Niamey.

Les opérations d'abattage sanitaire s'étant terminées depuis exactement 30 jours, durée fixée pour le vide sanitaire au Niger, la mission est chargée de se prononcer sur la levée de ces mesures, qui empêchent la réintroduction de volailles dans la zone (ancien périmètre infecté).

D'autre part, en l'absence de nouveau cas confirmé de grippe aviaire au Niger depuis le 27 février et 1 mois après la fin des opérations de police sanitaire au niveau des 3 foyers de Magaria, le pays pourrait à nouveau être en mesure de revendiquer le statut de pays indemne de grippe aviaire.

Revues de presse

Ci-joint les derniers articles sélectionnés sur la Grippe aviaire :

1. **Veille d'information de l'École vétérinaire de Dakar (Bulletin n°26),**

où l'on apprend notamment que :

1. En Côte d'Ivoire, L'OMS a remis mercredi dernier un lot de matériel de protection et des médicaments (Tamiflu) contre la grippe aviaire
2. la Russie vient de vacciner près de 10 millions de volailles
3. le Vietnam a vacciné plus de 70 millions de volailles et compte en vacciner 120 millions d'ici début juin (avec du vaccin chinois...).
4. l'Egypte a enregistré un cinquième décès.
5. Aux USA, le gouvernement a octroyé des contrats pour plus d'un milliard de dollars à cinq groupes pharmaceutiques pour développer des vaccins contre la grippe.
6. En Asie, Riches et pauvres d'Asie-Pacifique, se sont réunis pour discuter de mesures communes face à une possible pandémie.

2. **Sélection SANI,** notamment :

1. Au Niger : un état de la situation de l'épizootie présenté par l'OMS.
2. En Côte d'Ivoire:
   - Un rappel sur le mode de contamination de l'homme
   - L'opération d'abattage tantôt bien accueillie, tantôt considérée comme un calvaire pour les vendeurs de poulets

3. Au Burkina Faso: Les oiseaux migrateurs dans la ligne de mire

3. Une sélection d'article sur le **premier cas humain de grippe aviaire en Afrique subsaharienne** qui vient d'être déclaré à Djibouti

N° d'appel téléphonique ***TAM-TAM volailles mortes*** *:* **99 61 17**
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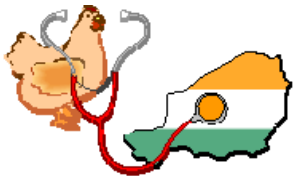


Réseau SANI
Santé Animale au Niger

Grippe aviaire

Mercredi 10 mai

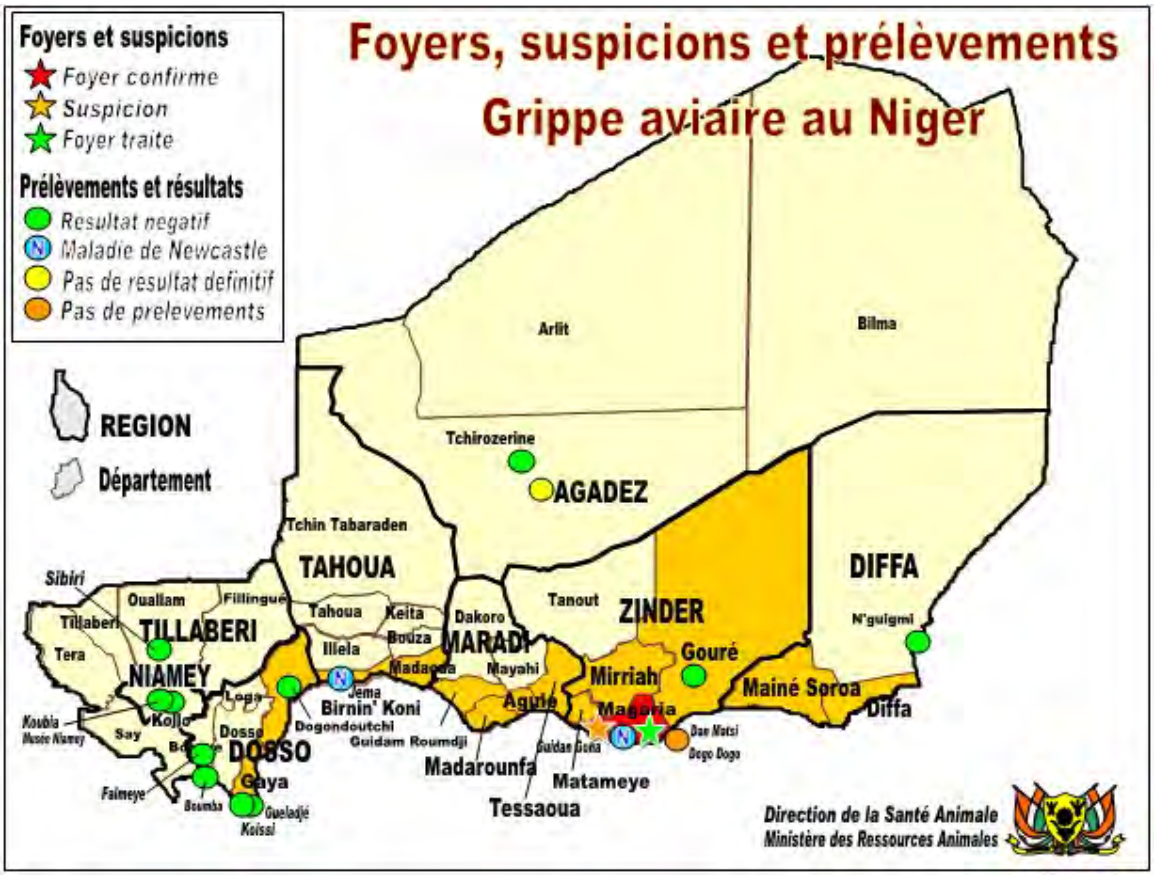
Situation Au Niger

Il n'y a pas de nouveau foyer confirmé de grippe aviaire au Niger depuis les foyers déclarés à Magaria, Dan Bardé et Gallawa Riga le 27 février dernier.

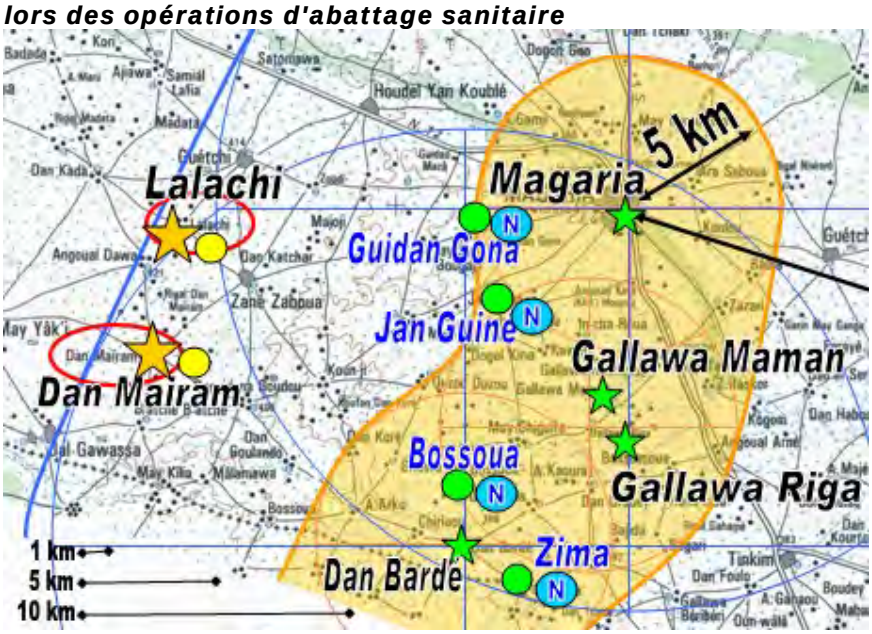
Le risque de développement d'un nouveau foyer au Niger reste lié :
- à la situation dans les pays infectés voisins du Niger, particulièrement au **Nigeria** où elle n'est pas stabilisée (plus de 80 foyers déclarés au mois d'avril) et mal connue. La situation au **Cameroun** ne fait également l'objet d'aucune information. En revanche, la situation au **Burkina Faso** est bien renseignée et semble maîtrisée.
- à la **reprise rapide du commerce** de volaille sur tout le territoire du Niger. La circulation des volailles et leur commerce sont le vecteur essentiel de la diffusion de la maladie.
- au changement de **climat, éventuellement plus favorable** à la survie du virus et au développement de l'épizootie, avec l'installation prochaine de la saison des pluies.

L'épidémiosurveillance active reste donc d'actualité, malgré toutes les difficultés rencontrées par les agents sur le terrain pour disposer d'un véhicule et de carburant.

Localisation des prélèvements réalisés à ce jour au Niger depuis avril



Situation des foyers et des prélèvements réalisés à Magaria lors des opérations d'abattage sanitaire



Les prélèvements réalisés à **Lalachi et Dan Mairam** où viennent d'être enregistrées de fortes mortalités de volailles viennent d'être pris en charge par le laboratoire vétérinaire de Niamey.

Les résultats des prélèvements réalisés lors de **l'enquête concomitante aux opérations d'abattage sanitaire de Magaria**, tous négatifs, écartent à priori la crainte de la persistance d'une circulation virale de la grippe aviaire dans les foyers.
En revanche, nombre d'entre eux se sont avérés positifs à la Maladie de Newcastle, ce qui explique la plupart des suspicions de grippe aviaire qui avaient été enregistrés dans le secteur après les foyers de Magaria.

Une **nouvelle suspicion** vient d'être enregistrée dans la **région de Maradi**, la première faisant l'objet de prélèvements dans cette région du Niger frontalière avec les États de Katsina et de Kano au Nigeria, où la maladie sévit depuis plusieurs mois.

Revue de presse SANI

Vous trouverez ci-joint une sélection d'articles sur la Grippe aviaire.

Les articles s'intéressent essentiellement cette semaine aux points suivants :

1. **La situation en Côte d`Ivoire** :

   10 millions de volailles devraient être abattues en moins de 10 jours sur la ville d'Abidjan pour satisfaire aux mesures de Police sanitaire !
2. **La déclaration de M. David Nabarro, Coordonnateur des Nations Unies pour la grippe aviaire** :

   - «Depuis le mois de janvier 2006, le virus H5N1 s'est répandu de manière spectaculaire dans 36 nouveaux pays. Par comparaison, entre 2003 et 2005, le virus n'a affecté que 15 pays».
   A ce jour, 205 personnes ont été contaminées et 113 d'entre elles en sont mortes.

   - «Il est nécessaire de disséminer l'information de manière large dans le public et chez les professionnels, d'impliquer les collectivités locales, les alliances stratégiques à tous les niveaux du gouvernement, le secteur privé et la société civile»

   - «D'importantes lacunes sont constatées dans la distribution à l'échelle internationale des fonds destinés à lutter contre le virus H5N1 de la grippe aviaire, peu d'argent étant envoyé aux pays les plus pauvres».
   «en toute franchise, les ressources pour les nations africaines (...) sont vraiment très, très faibles» a-t-il précisé.
   «Les défis en Afrique restent très difficiles, notamment quant aux restrictions financières. Nous travaillons actuellement à augmenter les ressources pour le continent africain».

   - la pandémie de grippe humaine est toujours considérée comme inévitable.
   «Elle serait tellement spectaculaire si elle devait arriver qu'on ne peut pas se permettre de ne pas donner aux pays des orientations pour planifier une réponse».
3. **Les contributions des Etats-Unis et de l'Union Européenne** :

   Avant la **réunion de Vienne** (réunion de hauts fonctionnaires programmée les 6 et 7 juin, à laquelle participeront donateurs et bénéficiaires), chacun se prépare à annoncer sa contribution à la lutte contre la maladie.

Pour l'instant, les USA l'emportent avec 100 millions $ déjà alloués sur 364 millions annoncés à **Pékin (Conférence** des donateurs qui s'était réunie en janvier 2006, où la communauté mondiale s'était engagée à hauteur de 1,9 milliard de dollars pour lutter contre la grippe aviaire partout dans le monde), alors que l'Union Européenne n'est pas encore prête à s'engager sur 100 millions $.
L'essentiel de l'aide de l'UE sera distribuée par l'intermédiaire d'un fonds spécial multidonateurs géré par la Banque mondiale, qui serait opérationnel dans les semaines à venir...

4. **La mise au point de vaccins humains contre le virus H5N1**

N° d'appel téléphonique ***TAM-TAM volailles mortes*** *:* **99 61 17**

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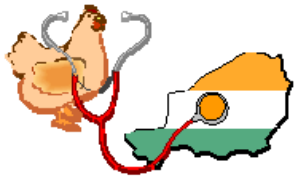
Contact Olivier Pinguet, Assistant Technique au MRA
opinguet@intnet.ne

nnnnnn



Réseau SANI
Santé Animale au Niger

Grippe aviaire

Vendredi 5 mai

Situation en Côte d'Ivoire

Les 2 foyers du district d'Abidjan ont été confirmés et un 3ème cas est suspecté à Bingerville.

Ci-joint les informations et articles de presse qui nous ont été adressés par l'Ambassade de France en Côte d'Ivoire :

1. Côte d`Ivoire: confirmation de la présence du virus H5N1 à Abidjan
   AFP- 4/5/2006
2. Alphonse Douaty : « La Côte d'Ivoire est atteinte de grippe aviaire »
   Courrier d'Abj.- 4/5/2006
3. Grippe aviaire à Abidjan et Bingerville - C'est confirmé !
   Soir Info- 4/5/2006
4. Abidjan atteint - Grippe aviaire
   Frat Mat- 4/5/2006
5. Le ministre Alphonse Douaty avoue enfin : "Le district d`Abidjan est frappé

par la grippe aviaire”
Nouveau Réveil- 4/5/2006

Informations Générales

Ci-joint la dernière **Veille d'information de l'École vétérinaire de Dakar (Bulletin n°25)**

Situation au Niger

1. **Bilan des opérations de Police Sanitaire à Magaria** :

Le dépouillement des attestations d'abattages et des attestations d'indemnisation étant terminé, vous trouverez ci-joint un bilan quasi définitif du nombre de volailles abattues par village.

1. Le nombre total de volailles abattues est : 17 611 volailles
2. Le montant total des indemnisations est : 18 853 600 F CFA

2. **Suspicions et prélèvements en cours** :

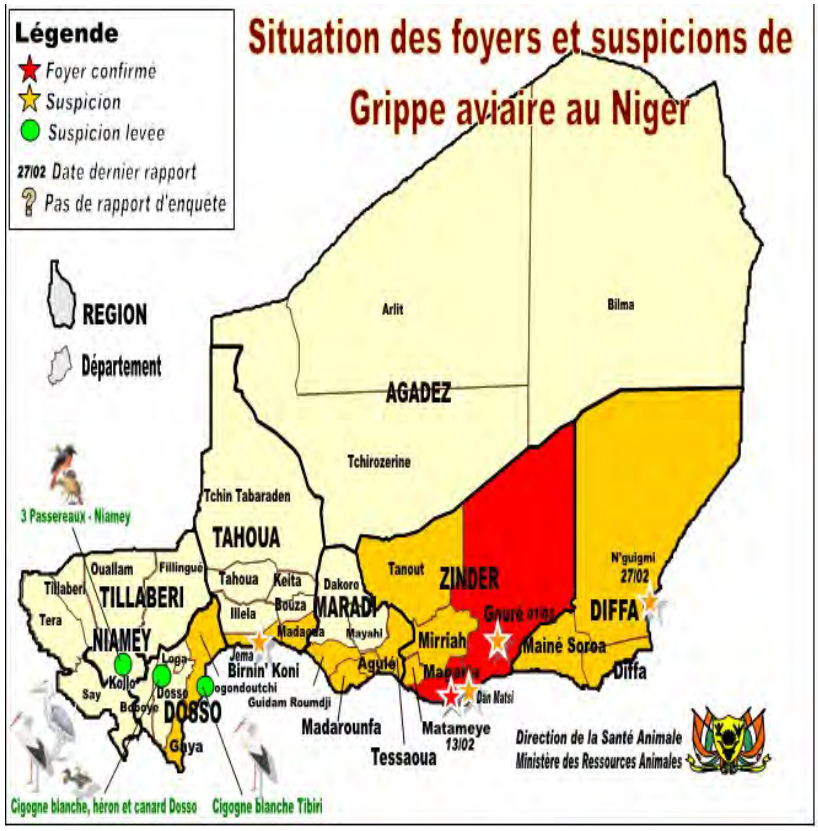
Les résultats des derniers prélèvements effectués au Niger viennent de parvenir à la DSA (Direction de la Santé Animale du MRA).
Il s'agissait de prélèvements en provenance de :Tchirozérine, Niamey, Gouré, Gueladjé, Agadez, Koissi, Falmeye, Boumba, Dosso, Simiri et N'Guigmi.

Tous les prélèvements analysés se sont révélés ***négatifs à l'Influenza virus*** de sous-type H5N1, y compris les prélèvements réalisés lors des opérations d'abattage dans le périmètre infecté de Magaria.

Les prélèvement réalisés à Guidan Gona (dans le périmètre infecté de Magaria) où de fortes mortalités de volailles avaient été enregistrées peu de temps avant les opérations se sont révélés ***positifs vis à vis du virus de la maladie de Newcastle***, ce qui suffit à expliquer les fortes mortalités observées.

3. **Nouvelle suspicion forte** :

De fortes mortalités de volailles ont été déclarées hier soir dans les localités de Lalachi et de Dan Mairam. Une enquête est en cours sous l'autorité de la DDRA de Magaria et de la DRRA de Zinder.



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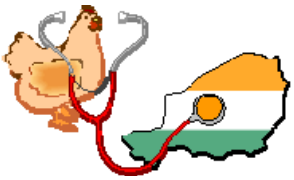

Réseau SANI
Santé Animale au Niger

Grippe aviaire

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Informations Générales

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opinguet@intnet.ne

Réseau SANI
Santé Animale au

Grippe aviaire
Jeudi 27 avril

Niger

Informations Générales

Ci-joint les derniers articles selectionnés sur la Grippe aviaire :

1. **Veille d'information de l'École vétérinaire de Dakar**

2. **Sélection SANI, notamment :**

   1. Côte d'Ivoire: La grippe aviaire signalée à Abidjan : l'institut pasteur confirme, le gouvernement ivoirien n'est pas "officiellement" informé
   2. Grippe aviaire: mise en place de mesures sanitaires en Côte d'Ivoire
   3. Grippe aviaire en Afrique : mobilisation des aides

3. Les **Services vétérinaires du Burkina Faso** publient régulièrement un **flash d'information** sur le site internet "*Plateforme d'information sur la sécurité alimentaire au Burkina Faso*" : http://www.sisa.africa-web.org/rubrique.php3?id_rubrique=65

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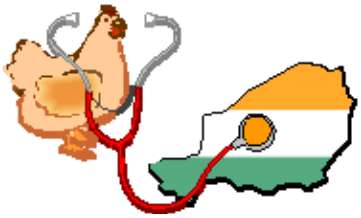

Réseau SANI
Santé Animale au Niger

Grippe aviaire
Mercredi 26 avril

Grippe aviaire en Côte d'Ivoire

La maladie vient de faire son apparition pour la première fois en Côte d'Ivoire.

Deux foyers d'influenza aviaire hautement pathogène ont été signalés dans le district

d'Abidjan (communes de Marcory Anoumabo et Treichville), dans la région des Lagunes. Les animaux atteints sont 7 poulets et 9 canards traditionnels de basse-cour élevés en liberté et un épervier.

Le diagnostic a été établi par le Laboratoire Vétérinaire Central du LANADA (Laboratoire national d'appui au développement agricole) à Bingerville et ensuite par l'Institut Pasteur de Côte d'Ivoire. Sa confirmation par le laboratoire de référence de l'OIE à Padoue (Italie) est attendue.

Ci-joint la déclaration officielle de l'OIE (Organisation Mondiale de la Santé Animale / Office International des Epizooties).

Evolution au Nigeria

Le Nigeria vient de signaler la progression de l'épizootie de grippe aviaire au cour de la semaine dernière dans trois nouveaux états : Bauchi, Katsina (frontalier de Maradi) et Plateau state. Ce qui porte à 15 ou 18/37 Etats touchés.

L'information nous est communiquée par les Bureaux OMS du Nigeria et du Niger.

N° d'appel téléphonique ***TAM-TAM volailles mortes*** *:* **99 61 17**

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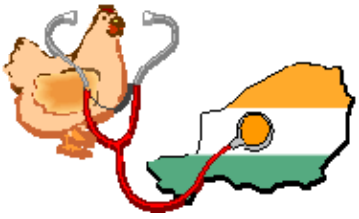

Réseau SANI
Santé Animale au Niger

Grippe aviaire
Jeudi 20 avril

Informations Générales

Ci-joint plusieurs articles relevés sur la Grippe aviaire :

1. **articles parus dans le journal "Le Sahel"**

    1. Assemblée nationale : Audition du Ministre des Ressources Animales.
    2. Intervention du Ministre des Ressources Animales sur la grippe aviaire : M. Jina Abdoulaye donne des détails sur le combat mené par le gouvernement

2. **veille d'information de l'École vétérinaire de Dakar**

3. **articles parus dans la presse africaine**

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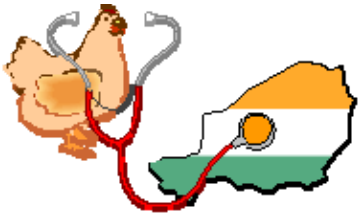


Réseau SANI
Santé Animale au Niger

Grippe aviaire

Mercredi 19 avril

Magaria... et après

Ci-joint un article du Sahel Dimanche sur les opérations de police sanitaire qui se sont déroulées à Magaria les 9, 10 et 11 avril dernier. Une opération sans précédent au Niger, où près de 200 km² du territoire ont été "ratissés" pour s'assurer que plus aucune volaille ne puisse être à l'origine d'une "réplique" de l'épizootie.
Près de 15 000 volailles ont étés tuées et indemnisées à plus de 1500 familles.

Le bilan définitif de ces opérations est en cours. Il nécessite le dépouillement de plusieurs milliers de fiches d'abattage et d'indemnisation.

Une réunion de "débriefing" s'est tenue hier au Ministère des Ressources Animales qui a permis de révéler toutes les difficultés auxquelles une telle intervention a été exposée.

Une nouvelle réunion de la cellule du MRA consacrée à la lutte contre la grippe aviaire est programmée ce soir avec pour objet la définition des nouvelles priorités d'action du dispositif d'intervention. Y seront notamment débattues les points suivants :

Bilan des opérations de Magaria

1. Compte-rendu technique des opérations
2. Dépouillement des abattages et indemnisations réalisées
3. Inventaire des difficultés, des faiblesses et des anomalies constatées
4. Recommandations
5. Bilan financier de l'opération

Vide sanitaire dans le périmètre infecté

- Acte réglementaire entérinant le vide sanitaire
- Information sur le vide sanitaire auprès des autorités et des populations
- Observation du vide sanitaire et contrôle de son application

Epidémiosurveillance active autour du périmètre infecté

1. Réalisation d'enquêtes de mortalités
2. Réalisation de prélèvements selon un plan d'épidémiosurveillance pré-établi.

Epidémiosurveillance active autour des sites de forte suspicion

- Gouré (région de Zinder)
- Dan Matsi, Gounga et Dogo Dogo (département de Magaria, région de Zinder)
- Boumba (département de Gaya, déjà réalisé)

Vaccinations dans le périmètre sanitaire Grippe aviaire + Newcastle

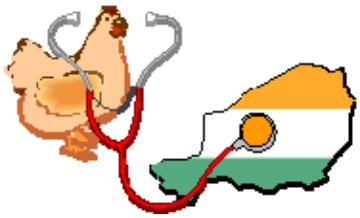
1. Vaccination dans le cordon sanitaire
2. Vaccination des volailles introduites dans le périmètre infecté après le vide sanitaire

Epidémiosurveillance active sur le reste du territoire

Vaccinations dans reste du territoire :

1. Constitution d'un stock de vaccin Grippe aviaire + Newcastle
2. Vaccination des pondeuses
3. Vaccination Newcastle dans zones infectées par Newcastle (Jema notamment)
4. Vaccination des oiseaux de haute valeur génétique ou commerciale (élevages d'autruches, parcs zoologiques)

N° d'appel téléphonique TAM-TAM volailles mortes : 99 61 17



Réseau SANI
Santé Animale au Niger

Grippe aviaire

Vendredi 14 avril

Informations Générales

Ci-joint les derniers articles sur la Grippe aviaire :
1. parus sur **Africa.com.** :

- Burkina Faso: Lutte contre la grippe aviaire au Burkina : La contribution de Taïwan
- Burkina Faso: La Grippe Aviaire au Faso : L'heure de la riposte a sonné
- Burkina Faso: Abattage de la volaille : On compte et on recompte les poussins
- Burkina Faso: Grippe aviaire: non à la psychose
- Cameroun: Impact : près de 2 milliards Fcfa de pertes à l'Ouest
- Cameroun: Foyer : sérénité légendaire à Malapé
- Cameroun: Débat : la grippe aviaire existe-t-elle réellement au Cameroun ?
- Burkina Faso: Chute des ventes de volailles et faible sensibilisation à la grippe aviaire
- Burkina Faso: Niger: la filière volaille en ruine

2. relevés par la **veille d'information de l'École vétérinaire de Dakar**, notamment :

- Grippe aviaire au Niger: début des opérations d`abattage des volailles
- Abattage de volaille à la frontière du Niger et du Nigeria
- Le Ghana enquête sur d`"étranges" décès de volailles
- Grippe aviaire en Égypte, un 12eme cas humain confirmé

Bonne lecture et bon week-end de Pâques, au cours duquel nos amis chrétiens ne failliront pas à la tradition en cherchant des oeufs... bien cuits de préférence.

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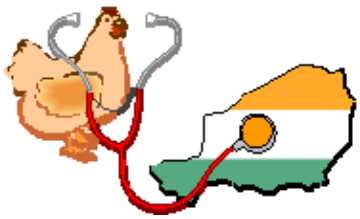

Réseau SANI
Santé Animale au Niger

Grippe aviaire

Mercredi 12 avril

Abattage sanitaire à Magaria - premier bilan

Les opérations d'abattage sanitaire dans le périmètre infecté autour des foyers de grippe aviaire de la commune de Magaria sont terminés depuis hier matin.

Les indemnisations des éleveurs sont normalement terminées depuis hier soir.

Le dépouillement des documents attestant de l'abattage puis de l'indemnisation prendra plusieurs jours. Il se fera à Niamey.

On peut d'ores et déjà avancer un premier bilan au vu des premiers recoupements qui sont opérés :

Selon les villages, le nombre de volailles abattues correspond en moyenne à 40 à 60 % des effectifs qui étaient recensés. La première explication de cette différence est probablement une surévaluation par les éleveurs du nombre réel de leurs volailles, voir dans certains cas la difficulté de ne pas compter 2 fois les mêmes volailles auprès de plusieurs interlocuteurs différents (le mari et sa femme dans une même famille déclare chacun de leur côté les mêmes volailles). L'autre explication est que certains éleveurs, sensibilisés au risque de la maladie ont sacrifié leurs volailles avant les opérations de police sanitaire.

Une réunion technique de "débriefing" est déjà programmée au Ministère des Ressources Animales avec le retour des agents à Niamey.

Le nombre exact de volailles abattues et indemnisées ainsi que celui des éleveurs concernés ne sera pas disponible avant le dépouillement définitif des attestations et leur recoupement. Toutes ces informations seront centralisées à la Direction de la Santé Animale, qui rendra compte des résultats au bailleur de fonds (l'Agence Française de Développement) et au Comité National "Grippe aviaire".

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Réseau SANI
Santé Animale au Niger

Grippe aviaire

Mardi 11 avril

Situation des suspicions et foyers du Niger

Les résultats des analyses réalisées sur les prélèvements de Jema, Gouré, N'Guigmi et Dosso par le laboratoire de Padoue ont été reçus le 31 mars. Ils ne sont pas définitifs mais permettent de faire le point suivant sur la situation au Niger.

A Dosso et Niamey, tous les prélèvements réalisés se sont avérés négatifs (Autruche, tourterelle, cigognes, jeune héron,...).

A Jema, il est définitivement établi que c'est une souche hautement pathogène du virus de la

maladie de Newcastle qui est responsable des mortalités observées (près de 200 poules et autres volailles). Le département de Birni N'Konni est donc retiré de la zone d'interdit pour la zone de protection, les départements de Illela et Bouza sont retirés de la zone de protection pour rejoindre la zone de surveillance.

A Guidan Gona, qui faisait partie du périmètre infecté, des prélèvements viennent d'être réalisés en même temps que l'abattage sanitaire d'hier. Le département de Magaria reste en zone d'interdit pendant la durée du vide sanitaire (21 jours).

A Gouré, un unique prélèvement réalisé longtemps après les mortalités s'est révélé négatif. Ce résultat est insuffisant pour exclure la maladie observée qui répondait en tous point aux caractères de la grippe aviaire. La mise en place d'une enquête séro-épidémiologique avec recueil de prélèvements sur place paraît indispensable dans le secteur de Gouré.

A N'Guigmi, on reste en attente des résultats définitifs sur les tourterelles.

A Dan Matsi, Dogo Dogo et Gounga (département de Magaria, hors périmètre infecté), aucun prélèvement n'a pu encore être réalisé.

A Boumba (au sud de Falmeye), une forte suspicion n'a pas encore fait l'objet de prélèvements.

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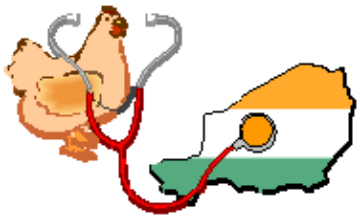

Réseau SANI
Santé Animale au Niger

Grippe aviaire

Lundi 10 avril - n°2

Informations Générales

Veuillez trouver ci-joint :

- le rapport sur l'atelier de formation des formateurs régionaux sur la grippe aviaire qui s'est tenu à Zinder du 3 au 5 avril 2006
- les derniers bulletins de veille de l'école vétérinaire de Dakar
- le rapport de la réunion du Groupe d'experts sur le Mécanisme sous régional de Coordination de la Prévention et de la Riposte contre la grippe aviaire qui s'est tenue à Bamako (Mali) les 16 et 17 mars 2006
- le compte-rendu du Comité national de lutte contre la grippe aviaire du Niger qui s'est tenu le 23 mars 2006 au SNIS à Niamey

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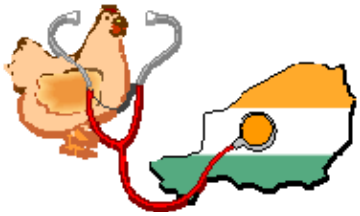


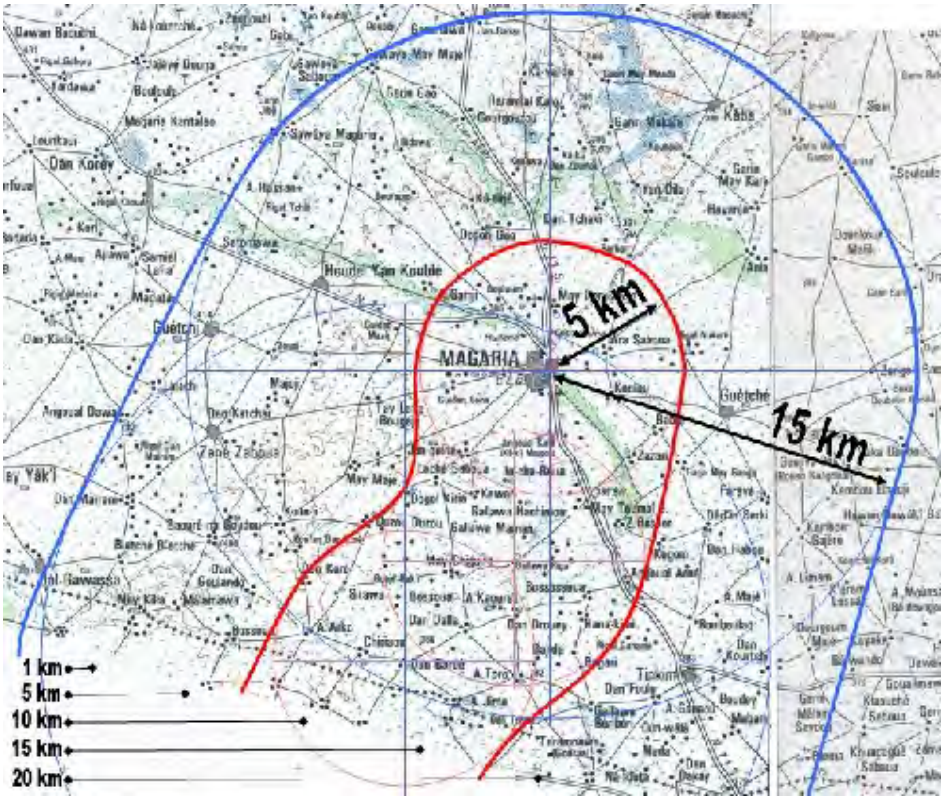
Réseau SANI
Santé Animale au Niger

Grippe aviaire

Lundi 10 avril

Abattage sanitaire à Magaria

Les opérations d'abattage sanitaire débutées hier soir sont d'ores et déjà presque terminées dans la quasi-totalité des 47 villages (sauf 1, dont les volailles seront abattues demain).



La grosse difficulté a été l'organisation de l'indemnisation des éleveurs, 4 agents du Ministère des Finances ayant pu apporté leur concours sur les 25 espérés (25 = nombre d'équipes opérationnelles d'abattage). Il a fallu prévoir en urgence la mobilisation de 3 guichets mobiles d'indemnisation en plus du guichet fixe situé à Magaria ville. Il a également fallu convaincre les populations de la réalité des indemnisations en leur exhibant l'argent en nature, voire en confiant la somme équivalente aux indemnisations à un agent de la force publique placé à demeure dans les villages auprès de la personne qui y incarne l'autorité (chef de village).

Chaque formulaire d'abattage et chaque formulaire d'indemnisation était établi en 4 exemplaires différents (carnets à souche de feuillets autocopiants), répartis entre les différents acteurs du dispositif afin d'assurer un contrôle immédiat et a posteriori des opérations (1 copie à l'éleveur, 1 aux services de l'élevage, 1 aux services des finances et 1 pour le bailleur avec copie à la coordination centrale).

L'indemnisation s'est donc déroulée après abattage soit dans les villages directement auprès des éleveurs, soit à Magaria où le chef du village avait été dépêché pour recueillir les indemnisations de ses "administrés", sur la foi de ces documents.

Au total, il semble que le nombre de volailles abattues soit légèrement inférieur aux chiffres du recensement, certains éleveurs s'étant déjà débarrassé de leurs volailles avant l'opération.

Une réunion de bilan de l'opération a lieu ce soir à Magaria à 21h. Nous vous en communiquerons les conclusions.

Le dispositif est reconnaissant au projet PSEAU, financé par l'**Agence Française de**

Développement, qui a rendu possible la mise en oeuvre financière de cette opération.

Il semble que cette opération, risquée et redoutée par beaucoup, peut d'ores et déjà être considérée comme un réel succès pour les Services Vétérinaires du Niger, même si elle intervient avec un certain retard, indépendant de leur volonté.

Une enquête épidémiologique a également été mise en oeuvre à cette occasion, avec le concours de la **FAO**. Elle a permis de procéder à de nombreux prélèvements sur les volailles abattues afin d'étudier la possibilité d'une circulation "silencieuse" du virus.

Il n'est pas prématuré de se féliciter de la réussite de cette intervention de police sanitaire, qui aura bénéficié aussi bien à la santé animale, à la santé publique qu'aux populations de Magaria.

Un vide sanitaire réglementaire de 21 jours devrait désormais être mis en oeuvre dans le périmètre infecté avant la possibilité d'un retour des volailles dans les villages.

N° d'appel téléphonique ***TAM-TAM volailles mortes*** *:* **99 61 17**

Pour ne plus recevoir ces courriels d'information, répondre directement à ce message

Contact Olivier Pinguet, Assistant Technique au MRA
opinguet@intnet.ne

Réseau SANI
Santé Animale au Niger

Grippe aviaire

Vendredi 7 avril - n°2

Abattage sanitaire à Magaria

Le lancement des opérations d'abattage sanitaire reste programmé pour dimanche.

Le Ministre des Ressources Animales vient de quitter ce matin Niamey pour Zinder.

Sur place, la Direction Régionale des Ressources Animales de Zinder prépare le terrain pour assurer la logistique des 25 équipes d'interventions prévues par le plan d'abattage à

Magaria (copie ci-joint du *PLAN OPÉRATIONNEL D'APPLICATION DES MESURES DE POLICE SANITAIRE DANS LE FOYER DE GRIPPE AVIAIRE HAUTEMENT PATHOGÈNE DANS LA COMMUNE DE MAGARIA),* malgré le fait que le budget de l'intervention (**44 755 121** F CFA) ne soit toujours pas bouclé à ce jour.

Coordination des opérations au Burkina Faso

Ci-dessous les informations qui nous sont transmises par le Dr Patrick RAIMBAULT, Chef du Projet ARIOPE (qui appuie les aviculteurs du Burkina). Elle permettent de mettre en perspective les réactions et difficultés réciproques de nos deux pays dans la mise en oeuvre des opérations :

"La commission épidémiologie créée dans le cadre du Plan National de riposte contre la Grippe Aviaire (GA) s'est réunie ce matin avec une audience plus étoffée, en raison de l'apparition de IAHP (Influenza Aviaire Hautement Pathogène) sur le territoire national.

34 Personnes autour du Ministre du MRA, son SG, son DGSV (Directeur Général des Services Vétérinaires) : 2 représentants de la BM, 1 du PNUD, 1 de l'UNICEF, 2 représentants de la FAO, parmi les bilatéraux seule l'Ambassade des US avec 2 représentants (et l'Ambassade de France).

Au niveau national: 1 représentant (rep) du Ministre (Min) de l'information, 1 du Min de l'Agriculture, INERA, MDA (5 Rep) et les directions du MRA dont le labo (DLNE) très représenté, l'ENESA.

Points abordés par la réunion :

- Le propriétaire du Pharaon est détenu à la police, pour échapper au lynchage de ses voisins

- Mise en oeuvre de la Surveillance épidémiosurveillance active avec visites sur le terrain des équipes de la DLNE (labo)

- Débat sur la vaccination et autres mesures dans la zone d'interdiction : après enquête épidémiologique préalable toutes les volailles seront vaccinées, "villageoises" comme "modernes".

- Tout le pays est considéré comme zone de surveillance

- Un groupage de prélèvements réalisés sur l'ensemble du territoire depuis le 15 mars partira sur Padoue semaine prochaine

- Le représentant de l'UNICEF signale de nombreuses mortalités sur volailles villageoises dans la région de DIAPAGA (est du pays, proche de ARLI).

- La commission, comme il était prévue dans le plan de riposte, se réunira chaque semaine deux fois (mardi et vendredi matin à 9H) jusqu'à nouvel ordre

- La Communication et sa méthodologie a été le point focal de la réunion

- Contribution de l'UNICEF suggérant d'utiliser ses bénéficiaires dans les villages pour

transmettre les infos par vélo

- Proposition de la BM de créer une cellule de crise pour communication permanente sur la GA

- Le DCPM (Dir de la Comm et presse Min) a été chargé de communiquer quotidiennement avec ses confrères privés

- La vice Présidente de la MDA demande au Ministre, lors de sa conférence de presse, de dédramatiser. La consommation d'oeufs s'effondre depuis le 3 avril

- Appui français : disponibilités financières du projet ARIOPE (20 000 Euros)

- 200 mallettes pédagogiques commandées à l'EISMV

- Demande de la DLNE de réactifs: Actuellement la DLNE peut diagnostiquer l'IAHP groupe A et la différencier des autres grippes humaines entre autres. Sur suggestion du chef de projet TCP/RAF de la FAO basé à Bko et présent à Ouaga, le projet pourrait financer dès la semaine prochaine l'achat d'un réactif de diagnostic de l'Antigène et de l'Antiserum IA qui permettrait pour 2 Millions de Fcfa d'obbtenir 240000 tests pour poser le diagnostic différentiel entre A, B et C d'une part, H5 et H7 d'autre part ainsi qu'avec NCD (Newcastle).

- Demande de la FAO à ARIOPE d'appuyer une petite cellule du Min de l'Agriculture, (DGPSA/DPAP/SCISA) qui écrit et édite les flash infos FAO/MRA pour une centaine de privilégiés par voie électronique....Aucune Direction Provinciale des Ressources Animales (DPRA) ne reçoit ce bulletin. Le résultat attendu est la diffusion en province par des moyens de courrier et d'envoi par bus. Un devis sera présenté au SCAC mardi 11."

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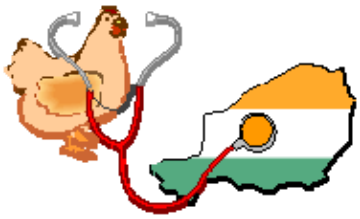

Réseau SANI
Santé Animale au Niger

Grippe aviaire
Vendredi 7 avril

Abattage sanitaire

Deux jours après avoir reçu les résultats officiels de l'infection par le virus H5N1 sur leur territoire, les Services vétérinaires du Burkina Faso ont commencé les opérations d'abattage systématique et d'indemnisation des oiseaux domestiques dans un rayon de 3 kilomètres autour de leur premier foyer.

1. les résultats ont été reçu le lundi 3 avril de Padoue.
2. l'Arrêté Portant Déclaration d'Infection (APDI) a été signé le mardi soir 4 avril.
3. l'isolement du site est effectif depuis mercredi matin 5 avril. Étant situé au bord de la grande route nationale de l' Est (la route du Niger) il était difficile d'installer un rotoluve mais des pédiluves devraient l'être prochainement autour du site.
4. la barrière de sécurité (environ 50 hommes en armes) sert davantage à contenir les journalistes et les villageois qui veulent s'assurer que les mesures d'abattage, dont leurs volaille vont faire l'objet, sont bien exécutées sur l'ensemble de tous les oiseaux du foyer.
5. les agents des Services vétérinaires et des autres autorités qui pénètrent sur le site portent les masques et combinaisons livrés par la Délégation Burkinabé de la FAO.

A Magaria, au Niger, Les opérations d'abattage sanitaire de volailles autour des foyers de grippe aviaire devraient commencer Incha Allah ce week-end, 40 jours après les résultats et la déclaration officielle de la maladie, le Ministre des Ressources Animales devant assurer officiellement le lancement des opérations ce dimanche.

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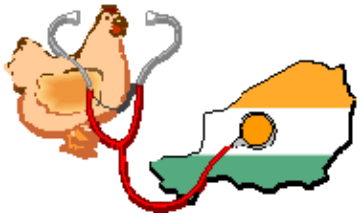

Réseau SANI
Santé Animale au Niger

Grippe aviaire
Jeudi 6 avril

Abattage sanitaire à Magaria

Les deux derniers blocages au démarrage des opérations d'abattage sanitaire des volailles

à Magaria sont levés. Il s'agissait de l'établissement de :

- **la <u>grille d'indemnisation</u>** des propriétaires de volailles abattues :
Elle a été adoptée par arrêté du Ministère des Ressources Animales avec visa favorable du Ministère des Finances (en date du 4 avril). Vous trouverez ci-joint copie de cet arrêté, qui précise les modalités d'indemnisation qui "s*'opère sur place*". Cette dernière disposition explique toutes les précautions dont la coordination s'entoure afin d'éviter toute dérive et faire que cette opération demeure exemplaire.

- **le <u>fond d'indemnisation</u>** :
L'arrêté suit de peu la décision de ce même Ministère des Finances (reçu par l'AFD le 3 avril) d'approuver l'affectation par l'AFD de 152 499 euros au dispositif de prévention et de lutte contre la Grippe aviaire, par l'entremise de son projet PSEAU, dont 27 millions sont consacrés au fond d'indemnisation.
Cette contribution de l'Agence Française de Développement au dispositif "Santé Animale" est la première contribution financière de cette importance à aboutir, plus d'un mois après la déclaration du premier foyer au Niger (27 février).

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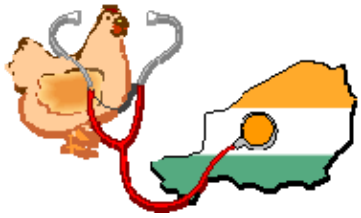

Réseau SANI
Santé Animale au Niger

Grippe aviaire
Jeudi 6 avril

Abattage sanitaire à Magaria

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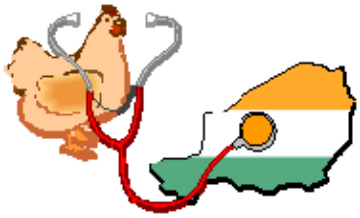

Réseau SANI
Santé Animale au Niger

Grippe aviaire
Mercredi 15 mars

Situation au Nigeria et au Cameroun
Ci-dessous la carte qui nous est adressée par M. Souleymane GUEYE, de OCHA Sénégal et que vous pouvez retrouver sur le site :
http://www.humanitarianinfo.org/westafrica/mapcenter.htm

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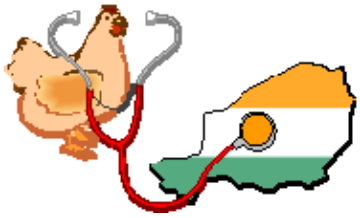

Réseau SANI
Santé Animale au Niger

Grippe aviaire

Mardi 14 mars - n°2

Matériel de protection

L'Ambassade des États-unis, représentée par le Consul des États-unis à Niamey vient de remettre ce matin au Ministère des Ressources Animales du Niger une importante livraison de matériel de protection, à l'usage des agents des Services vétérinaires appelés à intervenir sur les foyers de Grippe aviaire.

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Réseau SANI
Santé Animale au Niger

Grippe aviaire

Mardi 14 mars

Prélèvements

Nous venons d'apprendre que les prélèvements réalisés à Gouré, N'Guigmi, Jema et Dosso, qui avaient quitté Niamey mardi 7 mars dernier par avion ne sont toujours pas arrivés à Montpellier.
Espérons que la Compagnie aérienne qui en avait la charge aura pu les conserver au froid, faute de quoi tout pourrait être à refaire...

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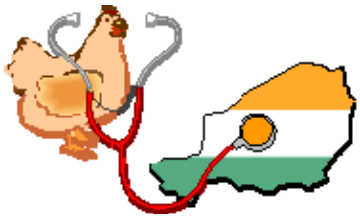


Réseau SANI
Santé Animale au Niger

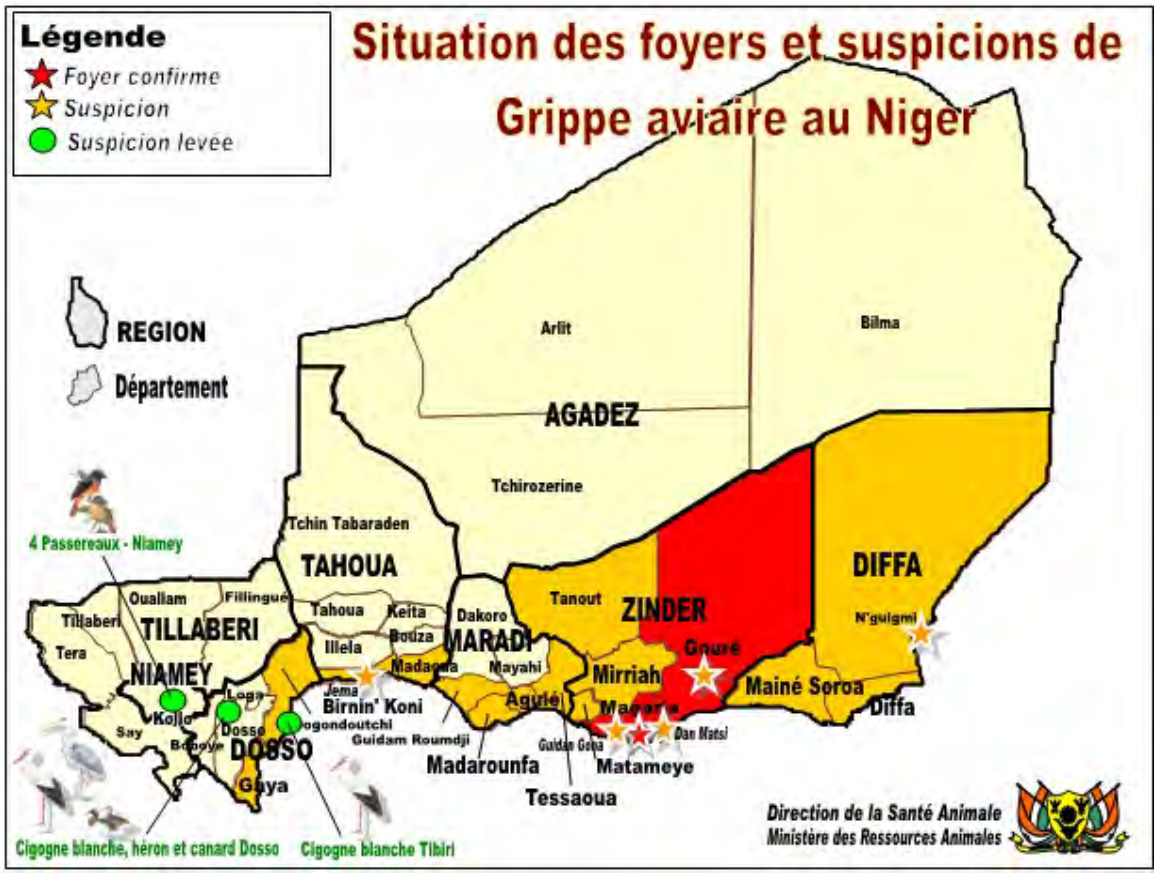
Grippe aviaire

Lundi 13 mars

Epidémiosurveillance

Une nouvelle suspicion de la maladie a été enregistrée par la Direction Départementale des Ressources Animales de Magaria dans la localité de Guidan Gona, à quelques kilomètres à l'ouest de Magaria.
Elle concerne la mortalité subite fin février de la presque totalité des canards du village, suivie par la mortalité de plusieurs dizaines de pintades.

La Direction Régionale des Ressources Animales de Zinder, qui rentre demain de Niamey avec une première trousse d'intervention, devrait dépêcher sur place une équipe pour y réaliser des prélèvements.



Ceux qui souhaiteraient appuyer les Services vétérinaires peuvent leur adresser directement leur soutien moyennant information à la coordination centrale :

- Secrétaire Général du MRA : sg_mra@yahoo.fr
- Directeur de la Santé Animale : kioseini@yahoo.fr
- Directeur du Laboratoire National Vétérinaire : maikanoissoufou@yahoo.fr
- Réseau SANI : opinguet@intnet.ne

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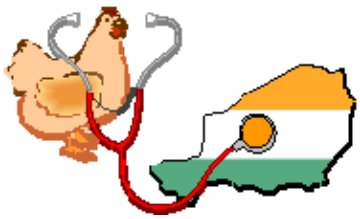

Réseau SANI
Santé Animale au Niger

Grippe aviaire

Samedi 11 mars

Fin des premières journées techniques vétérinaires

Les Premières journées techniques vétérinaires se sont achevées hier au stade Seini Kountché.
Vous en trouverez ci-joint les Recommandations et le Communiqué Final.

Les Vétérinaires et agents de Services Vétérinaires présents se sont retrouvés aujourd'hui au Ministère des Ressources Animales puis au laboratoire national vétérinaire pour une démonstration de prélèvements, d'abattage sanitaire et de désinfection, avec quelques volailles de figuration achetées pour l'occasion. Tous ont ainsi bénéficié de l'expérience acquise par l'équipe opérationnelle de retour de Magaria.

Ce fut également l'occasion de distribuer aux agents les premières trousses d'intervention (une pour chaque DDRA et DRRA) constituées grâce aux contributions de l'Ambassade de France à Niamey, de l'Ambassade des Etats-Unis à Dakar (USDA APHIS) et de la FAO.
Chaque trousse d'intervention est constituée par :

1. une sacoche en cuir
2. 2 brochures comprenant le plan d'intervention ainsi que les fiches opérationnelles et techniques.
3. 2 combinaisons (à usage unique)
4. 3 paires de gants latex (à usage unique)
5. 1 masque de protection (à usage unique)
6. 1 paire de lunettes de protection
7. une dizaine d'écouvillons avec milieux spéciaux de conservation (prélèvements)
8. 2 accumulateurs de froid (ice-packs) pour l'envoi de prélèvement
9. 5 sachets de 50 gr. de désinfectant

C'est encore modeste (voire dérisoire), mais cela a suffit à vider le stock national du dispositif de lutte (!).

Une première dotation en carburant a également été distribuée aux DRRA.

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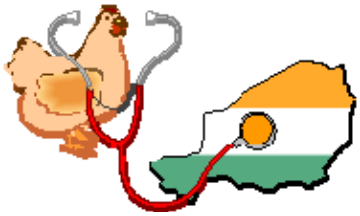

Réseau SANI
Santé Animale au Niger

Grippe aviaire

Jeudi 9 mars - n°3

Formation aux prélèvements et à l'abattage sanitaire

Le Secrétaire Général des Ressources Animales vient d'annoncer, au terme de la *première journée technique vétérinaire*, qu'à la demande du Ministère des Ressources Animales et grâce à l'appui de la FAO, une troisième journée sera ajoutée à cette rencontre, le samedi 10 mars.
Elle sera entièrement consacrée à la formation des vétérinaires et agents des Ressources Animales présents, à la pratique des prélèvements et aux modalités pratiques de l'abattage sanitaire dans les périmètres infectés.
Cette formation sera notamment assurée par le Dr Seini Aboubacar (Directeur de la Santé Animale) et le Dr Issoufou Maïkano (Directeur des Laboratoires Vétérinaires) actuellement à pied d'oeuvre avec une équipe Nigériane dans le périmètre infecté de Magaria.

N° d'appel téléphonique ***TAM-TAM volailles mortes*** *:* **99 61 17**

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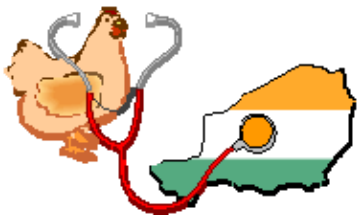

Réseau SANI
Santé Animale au Niger

Grippe aviaire

Jeudi 9 mars - n°3

Formation aux prélèvements et à l'abattage sanitaire

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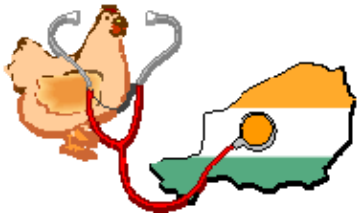

Réseau SANI
Santé Animale au Niger

Grippe aviaire

Jeudi 9 mars - n°2

Bulletin d'information de l'EISMV

Ci-joint le dernier bulletin d'information de l'École Vétérinaire de Dakar.
On peut notamment y lire les articles suivants :

07/03/2006

Du matériel pour aider le Niger à lutter contre la grippe aviaire

NIAMEY (AP) - Le Niger vient de recevoir du matériel de lutte contre la grippe aviaire, maladie dont la souche mortelle H5N1 a été décelée à Magaria, ville frontalière du Nigeria, et entamera cette semaine

son action contre l'épizootie, a annoncé mardi le ministre nigérien des Ressources animales, Abdoulaye Jina.

Ce lot de 1.000 équipements complets de lutte contre la grippe aviaire provenant du Nigeria est composé de combinaisons de protection, de bottes, de gants, de masques, de produits de désinfection et de pulvérisateurs à pression.

Le matériel est déjà disponible à Magaria depuis le week-end dernier et a été réceptionné officiellement lundi, a indiqué le ministre au cours d'un point de presse.

Cinq formateurs nigérians accompagnent ce matériel pour former les agents aux différentes méthodes d'intervention, a-t-il poursuivi.

"Pour mieux renforcer le dispositif national déjà existant, le matériel a été reparti par région pour permettre une réaction rapide de proximité au cas ou la maladie venait à être déclarée dans d'autres localités du Niger", a précisé M. Jina.

"Je me réjouis de notre capacité à pouvoir agir de manière instantanée pour lutter contre le fléau de la grippe aviaire et éradiquer totalement cette maladie sur toute l'étendue du territoire national", a-t-il encore affirmé.

L'abattage de la volaille commence cette semaine et s'effectuera sur un rayon de 100 kilomètres autour de Magaria, premier foyer déclaré. Le gouvernement nigérien a en outre décidé d'indemniser les propriétaires de la volaille abattue.

http://fr.news.yahoo.com/07032006/5/du-materiel-pour-aider-le-niger-lutter-contre-la-grippe.html

07/03/2006

Lutte contre la grippe aviaire : La Banque mondiale octroie 300 millions de FCFA pour le plan de riposte

Libéria, le Burkina Faso et la Guinée, Hats Karlsson ont procédé, le 2 février 2006, à une signature de convention d'un montant de 300 000 000 de FCFA.

C'est une réponse à l'appel du gouvernement burkinabè dans le but de faire face à la grippe aviaire. Le ministre Jean Baptiste Compaoré a salué la promptitude avec laquelle la Banque mondiale a réagi à cette doléance.

« Ce fonds vient, a-t-il dit, s'ajouter à ce que le gouvernement a déjà mis en place, et nous permettra d'envisager une riposte efficace contre cette maladie qui tend à devenir une épizootie ».

Il est prévue dans les jours à venir une rencontre avec tous les partenaires pour en discuter.

« Cette convention marque » a-t-il conclu, un bon départ des relations que la Banque mondiale veut nouer avec nous

http://www.lefaso.net/article.php3?id_article=12827&id_rubrique=3

NDLR : la Banque Mondiale devrait également prochainement apporter son soutien au dispositif de lutte du Ministère des Ressources Animales

02/03/2006

GRIPPE AVIAIRE VACCINATION - Medical International Technologies annonce

un système d'injection sans aiguille spécialement conçu pour la vaccination contre la grippe aviaire.

Le système d'injection sans aiguille, conçu spécifiquement pour permettre des injections rapides, précises et sécuritaires, est en train de s'établir rapidement comme un instrument indispensable dans la lutte contre les maladies chez les humains et les animaux .

(...)

N° d'appel téléphonique ***TAM-TAM volailles mortes*** *:* **99 61 17**

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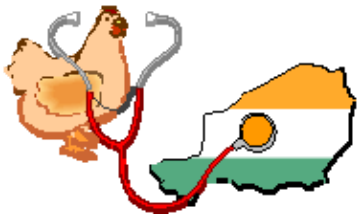
Contact Olivier Pinguet, Assistant Technique au MRA
opinguet@intnet.ne



Réseau SANI
Santé Animale au Niger

Grippe aviaire

Jeudi 9 mars

Premières journées techniques vétérinaires

Les ***Premières journées techniques vétérinaires***, consacrées à la Grippe Aviaire, organisées par le Conseil National de l'Ordre des Vétérinaires du Niger avec l'appui de la FAO, viennent de débuter au Stade Seyni Kountché (et non au Palais des Sports voisin comme indiqué dans notre message de mercredi).
Vous trouverez ci-dessous et ci-joint le discours d'ouverture prononcé à 10h00 par le Ministre des Ressources Animales, dans lequel le Ministre remercie les premiers contributeurs du dispositif de lutte :

1. la FAO (Organisation Mondiale pour l'Agriculture et l'Alimentation),
2. le Gouvernement du Nigeria,
3. l'USDA-Aphis à Dakar,
4. l'AFD (Agence Française de Développement)
5. la Coopération Française

ALLOCUTION D'OUVERTURE DU MINISTRE DES RESSOURCES ANIMALES

☞ *Excellence Monsieur le Ministre d'Etat*

☞ *Messieurs les membres du Gouvernement*

☞ *Excellence Mesdames et Messieurs les Ambassadeurs*

☞ *Madame la Représentante de la FAO*

☞ *Mesdames Messieurs les Représentants des Organisations Internationales*

☞ *Monsieur le Président du Conseil National de l'Ordre des Vétérinaires du Niger*

☞ *Messieurs les Experts*

☞ *Honorables Invités,*

☞ *Mesdames, Messieurs, chers participants ;*

C'est avec un véritable satisfecit que je me trouve ici parmi vous pour procéder à l'ouverture officielle des Premières Journées Techniques Vétérinaires sur l'Influenza aviaire ou grippe aviaire et la maladie de Newcastle.

Je voudrais d'abord remercier vivement tous ceux qui ont répondu à notre invitation et à l'Ordre National des Vétérinaires du Niger pou avoir initié cette rencontre louable.

Mesdames, Messieurs

Chers participants

Permettez- moi de rappeler que le secteur de l'élevage, avec un effectif de bétail estimé à plus de (7) millions d'UBT toutes espèces confondues et un secteur avicole dominé par l'élevage traditionnel dont la valeur est estimée à trente sept milliards de francs CFA occupe une place prépondérante dans la vie économique et sociale de notre pays, notamment dans la lutte contre la pauvreté, la malnutrition et l'insécurité alimentaire.

C'est pourquoi dès l'adoption du Document Cadre de Relance du Secteur de l'Elevage par le Gouvernement le 12 Mars 2002, notre département ministériel s'est attelé à la mise en oeuvre des douze Programmes Prioritaires identifiés et en particulier le Programme de Lutte Contre les Epizooties et de Veille Sanitaire qui vise entre autres objectifs :

- *L'amélioration des connaissances sur les maladies animales sévissant dans notre pays;*
- *Le renforcement de la lutte contre les principales maladies épizootiques;*
- *L'intensification de la surveillance épidémiologique des maladies épizootiques;*
- *Le renforcement des infrastructures de base et de l'encadrement.*

Mesdames et Messieurs

Chers participants

La Maladie de Newcastle et tout récemment la grippe aviaire, objet des Journées Techniques, constituent un facteur limitant du développement de l'aviculture. Ces deux maladies, presque similaires, peuvent occasionner sur le plan économique l'effondrement de la filière avicole car pouvant entraîner 100 p100 de mortalité de l'effectif volaille.

Quant à la grippe aviaire, elle est aujourd'hui devenue un enjeu majeur à l'échelle planétaire à cause surtout de la transmission de l'infection de l'oiseau à l'homme et d'un risque de transmission interhumaine de la maladie avec des lourdes conséquences d'apparition d'une pandémie.

Le Niger a enregistré pour la première fois de son histoire, un foyer de grippe aviaire. Il s'agit de la grippe aviaire au virus H5N1 identique à celui diagnostiqué au Nigéria voisin. La première notification

a été faite par le Laboratoire de référence de l'Organisation Mondiale de la Santé animale de Padova (Italie) le 27 Février 2006.

Mais bien avant cette date, et compte tenu de la menace réelle de la maladie sur notre pays, le gouvernement, sur instruction de son Excellence Tandja Mamadou, Président de la République, Chef de l'Etat a pris d'importantes mesures dont entre autres :

☞ *L'Arrêté interministériel N°072/MRA/MHE/LCD/MSP/LCE/MCI/PSP du 06 décembre 2005 portant interdiction d'importation des produits d'origine aviaire et de leurs sous produits*

☞ *L'Arrêté N°0021/MRA/MHE/LCD/MSP/LCE/MCI/PSP du 16 Février 2006 modifiant et complétant le précédent arrêté*

☞ *La Création d'un Comité Interministériel « Grippe Aviaire » chargé de l'élaboration d'un Plan National de Prévention et de Lutte contre la Grippe Aviaire au Niger et de sa mise en œuvre en cas d'apparition de la maladie*

☞ *La mise en place au sein du Ministère des Ressources Animales d'une cellule de Coordination, de Suivi et de riposte contre la grippe aviaire*

☞ *Mais aussi et surtout la conduite de huit missions gouvernementales d'information et de sensibilisation des populations sur la grippe aviaire dans toutes les huit régions du pays, ce qui a permis à nos compatriotes de cerner au mieux le contour de cette maladie*

Après la notification des cas de grippe aviaire, le gouvernement de la République du Niger a renforcé les mesures conservatoires citées plus haut et a procédé à l'application des règles de police sanitaire édictées à de telles circonstances

Honorables invités,

Mesdames, Messieurs,

La tenue de ces premières journées techniques vétérinaires sur la grippe aviaire et la maladie de Newcastle organisées par l'Ordre National des Vétérinaires du Niger avec l'appui de la FAO, tombent donc à point nommé et cadrent parfaitement avec l'engagement du Président de la République et du gouvernement à éradiquer ces maladies.

En effet, la présence de la grippe aviaire dans notre pays, en plus de la maladie de Newcastle, fragilise d'avantage notre aviculture. C'est pourquoi, la mobilisation de tous et de chacun, notamment les différentes organisations socioprofessionnelles à l'instar de l'Ordre National des Vétérinaires du Niger est indispensable et salutaire pour faire face à ces fléaux.

L'Ordre National des Vétérinaires du Niger est sur une bonne voie et cela nous rassure.

Vu la pertinence des thèmes à débattre, j'exhorte tous les acteurs intervenant dans la filière avicole, publics et privés, les mandataires sanitaires, les associations d'aviculteurs, les cadres du MRA, de s'y impliquer pleinement pour la réussite de ces premières journées techniques pour la sauvegarde de notre volaille.

Mesdames, Messieurs,

Chers participants,

C'est donc à juste titre que notre attente des conclusions de vos travaux soit grande et je suis convaincu qu'au vu de l'importance et de la qualité des experts et des participants ici réunis, ces vœux

seront exhaussés

C'est pourquoi j'exhorte chacun et chacune de vous à donner le maximum de lui même afin qu'au terme de vos journées, vous parveniez à des résultats forts enrichissants.

Mon département ministériel suivra avec la plus grande attention le déroulement de vos travaux et se tiendra prêt à vous apporter tout le soutien qu'il faut pour la réussite de ces journées.

Avant de terminer mon propos je tiens déjà à porter à votre connaissance que nous avons commencer à recevoir du matériel de lutte contre la grippe aviaire et des aides substantielles provenant de la FAO, du Nigéria, de l'USDA-Aphis à Dakar, de l'AFD (Agence Française de Développement) et de la Coopération Française.

C'est le lieu de les remercier pour l'appui apporté à notre pays dans la lutte contre la Grippe aviaire.

C'est sur ces mots que je déclare ouvertes les Premières Journées Techniques Vétérinaires sur l'Influenza Aviaire ou Grippe Aviaire et la Maladie de Newcastle.

Je vous remercie.

M. Jina Moussa Abdoulaye, Ministre des Ressources Animales du Niger

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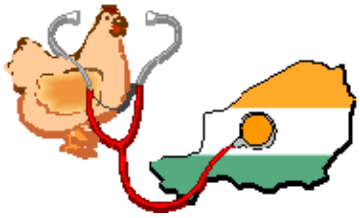

Réseau SANI
Santé Animale au Niger

Grippe aviaire

Mercredi 8 mars - n°3

Les prélèvements sont arrivés à Montpellier

Une partie des prélèvements réalisés sur les sites des suspicions de N'Guigmi, de Gouré et de Jema ont été pris en charge par la mission du CIRAD avec son retour en France. C'est heureux car le dispositif ne dispose pas de nouvelles ressources pour l'envoi de prélèvements.
La Direction de la Santé Animale remercie M. Alexandre CARON, épidémiologiste au CIRAD, qui a bien voulu faciliter cet envoi.
Une partie sera reconditionnée à Montpellier et envoyée au Laboratoire international de référence pour la Grippe aviaire à Padoue, en Italie. Le délai de réponse était d'à peine 1 semaine lors de l'envoi des prélèvements de Magaria.

SANI en ligne

Une partie des messages envoyés par SANI sont désormais disponibles en ligne sur le site de la FAO / GIEWS (Global Information and Early Warning System) :

http://www.fao.org/giews/french/otherpub/NigerAvianFlu.htm

Merci à la FAO pour cette initiative.

Le point sur l'acquis du dispositif

La réunion des bailleurs de lundi au PNUD, consacrée à la grippe aviaire, n'a apporté aucune nouvelle perspective de contribution au dispositif de lutte.

Vous trouverez ci-joint le tableau mis à jour de ces contributions au 8 mars 2006. La plupart ont été attribuées sous forme de dons en nature. La seule contribution financière existant à ce jour est celle de l'***Association SOS Faune Sauvage du Niger***, que la Direction de la Santé Animale remercie à nouveau.

Cela fait 1 mois que la maladie est déclarée au nord Nigeria (8 février).
Cela fait 23 jours que la maladie est suspectée au Niger (13 février).
Cela fait 9 jours que la maladie est confirmée au Niger (27 février).

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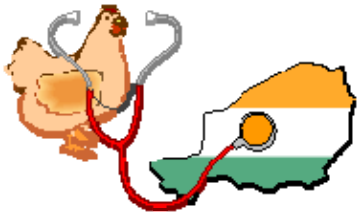

Réseau SANI

Grippe aviaire

Mercredi 8 mars - n°2

Protection des agents des Services vétérinaires

Alors que le monde entier constitue des réserves d'anti-viraux (Tamiflu™, Relanza™,...), les agents des Services vétérinaires du Niger interviennent dans le périmètre infecté de Magaria sans aucune prophylaxie médicale.

La Direction de la Santé Animale en appelle aux opérateurs de santé publique au Niger pour savoir si un stock de Tamiflu y serait disponible ainsi que des vaccins contre la grippe humaine, pour limiter les risques de recombinaison virale, réassortiment qui pourrait être à l'origine d'une pandémie de grippe humaine.

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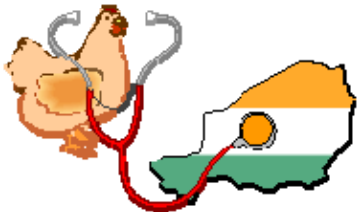

Réseau SANI
Santé Animale au Niger

Grippe aviaire

Mercredi 8 mars

Grandes Rencontres Vétérinaires

Le Conseil National de l'Ordre des Vétérinaires du Niger organise les jeudi 9 et vendredi 10 mars prochain, au Palais des Sports, avec l'appui de la FAO, les ***Premières journées techniques vétérinaires***, consacrées en particulier à la Grippe Aviaire. Y seront représentés les Services vétérinaires déconcentrés (Toutes les Directions Régionales ainsi que les Directions Départementales frontalières du Nigeria) ainsi que les praticiens privés. Ci-joint le programme de la rencontre.

Dispositif de lutte contre la Grippe aviaire

Vous trouverez ci-joint le plan d'intervention de l'Unité Santé Animale. L'Élaboration de ce

plan n'a bénéficié d'aucun des appuis financiers prévus en appui aux plans d'intervention d'urgence (FAO notamment). C'est pourtant le seul document consacré au dispositif opérationnel disponible à ce jour.
Les premières aides en nature commencent à arriver :

- Un envoi de l'USDA-APHIS (Dakar) arrive ce jour par avion avec une première dotation constituée par :
  - 30 paires de bottes
  - 30 combinaisons de protection
  - du petit matériel de prélèvement
- Une livraison hier auprès du laboratoire national vétérinaire de kits diagnostic de la part de la FAO
- L'arrivage à Magaria lundi de la dotation du Nigeria avec une équipe d'agents Nigerians qui oeuvrent en ce moment même avec des agent Nigériens pour la mise en place des mesures de police sanitaire dans le périmètre infecté :
  - 200 litres de désinfectant
  - 20 pulvérisateurs
  - 1000 combinaisons de protection
- L'Ambassade de France s'apprête à remettre officiellement une importante quantité de bons carburant aux Services vétérinaires déconcentrés qui seront représentés à l'occasion des premières rencontres techniques vétérinaires (voir article précédent).

Même modestes, ces premières contributions constituent un bol d'oxygène pour les Services vétérinaires.
Chacun peut appuyer les Services vétérinaires en leur adressant directement son soutien avec information à la coordination centrale :

1. Secrétaire Général du MRA : sg_mra@yahoo.fr
2. Directeur de la Santé Animale : kioseini@yahoo.fr
3. Directeur du Laboratoire National Vétérinaire : maikanoissoufou@yahoo.fr
4. Réseau SANI : opinguet@intnet.ne

Sensibilisation et Outils pédagogiques

L'École Vétérinaire de Dakar (EISMV) vient de concevoir une malette de Sensibilisation à la Grippe Aviaire, à l'usage de tous les acteurs de la sensibilisation sur le terrain (agents des services vétérinaires, praticiens vétérinaires privés, animateurs, encadreurs et vulgarisateurs des programmes de développement, responsables de la filière avicole,...)

Ci-joint la présentation de cet outil de sensibilisation

Un manuel spécifique sur la grippe aviaire est également en préparation en partenariat avec AVSF (Vétérinaires Sans Frontières), à l'intention des auxiliaires d'élevage, vaccinateurs villageois et autre éleveurs formés en santé des volailles.

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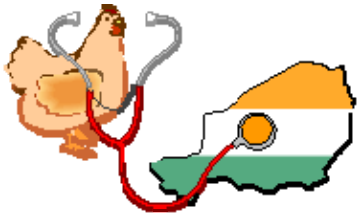


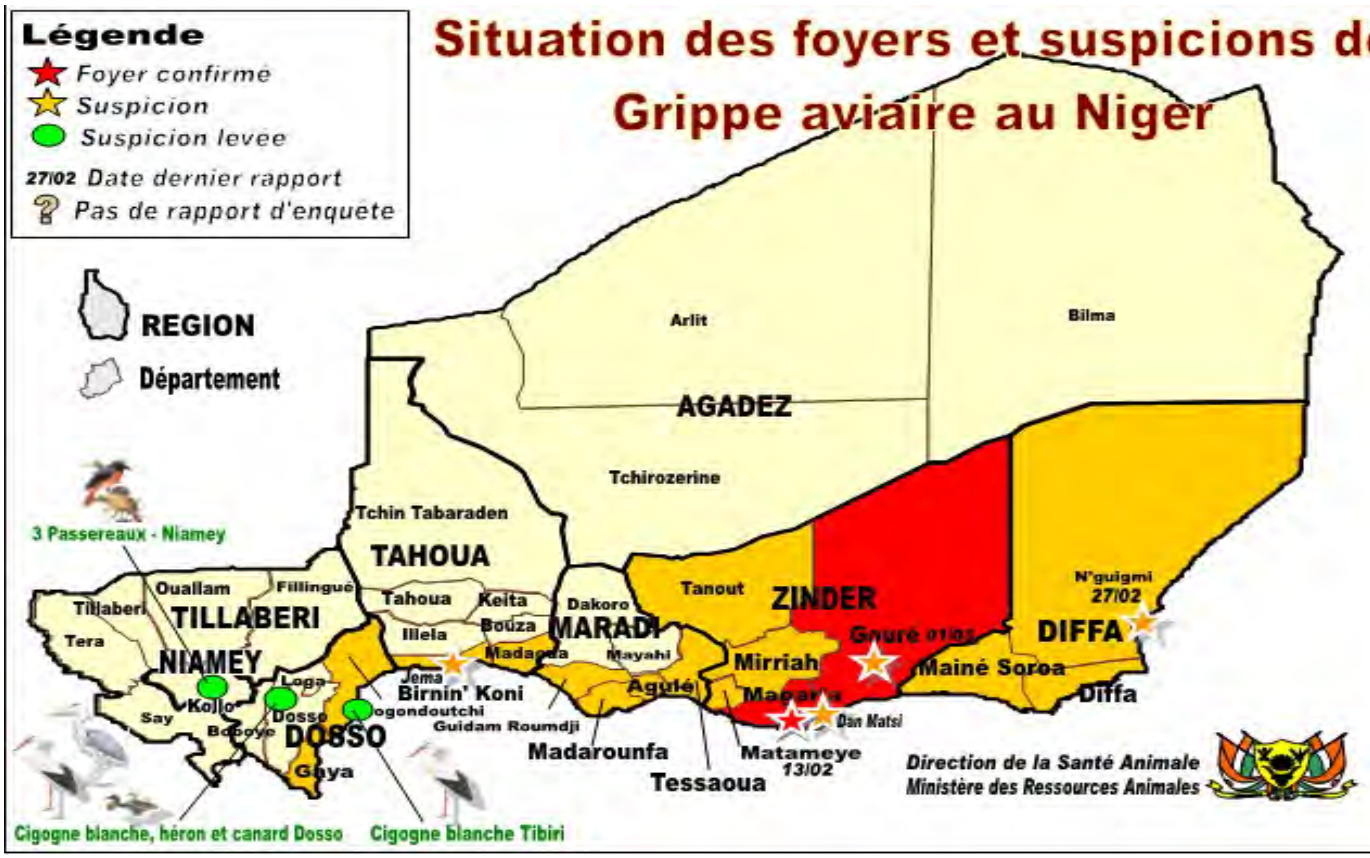
Réseau SANI
Santé Animale au Niger

Grippe aviaire

Mardi 7 mars

Situation à Konni

De retour de Zinder, la mission de la Coordination Régionale du PACE-Bamako , ramène à Niamey les prélèvements réalisés à Jema (près de 200 volailles mortes) par une équipe du laboratoire vétérinaire de Tahoua, dépêchée sur place par la DRRA de Tahoua.
Les prélèvements seront traités par le laboratoire vétérinaire central de Niamey, dans la limite des tests diagnostics encore disponibles (4).



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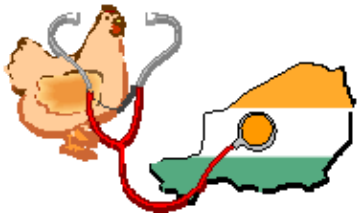

Réseau SANI
Santé Animale au Niger

Grippe aviaire

Dimanche 5 mars - n°2

Les Missions d'appui se multiplient

En même temps que l'aide financière s'organise, les missions d'appui technique et logistique se multiplient :

- Une délégation du Nigeria (Ministre de l'Agriculture du Nigeria notamment) a été reçue hier par les autorités du Niger à Niamey (Ministre des Ressources Animales du Niger notamment). Elles est venue annoncer l'arrivée dimanche à Magaria d'une équipe d'agents du Nigeria accompagnée de matériels et d'équipements destinés aux mesures de Police sanitaire et d'épidémiosurveillance sur place. Une équipe du Ministère des Ressources Animales du Niger est parti hier de Niamey à leur rencontre.
- Une mission CIRAD est déjà à pied d'oeuvre depuis une semaine dans les régions de Zinder puis de Gaya pour réaliser des prélèvements sur l'avifaune sauvage, en collaboration avec 3 agents du Ministère de l'Environnement du Niger. De nombreux prélèvements ont d'ores et déjà été réalisés et seront envoyés pour analyse à Montpellier (France).
- Une mission de la Coordination du PACE à Bamako s'est rendue hier dans la région de Zinder et en particulier à Magaria et à Gouré. En plus du concours technique qui sera apporté aux équipes sur place, les prélèvements réalisés sur les sites de suspicion seront ramenés à Niamey pour analyse.
- Un consultant international dépêché par la FAO se rendra en mission 3 semaines au Niger à partir du 12 mars pour évaluer l'action des Services vétérinaires Nigériens face à la grippe aviaire.

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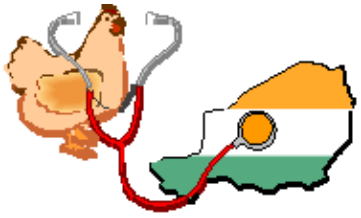

Réseau SANI
Santé Animale au Niger

Grippe aviaire
Dimanche 5 mars

Police Sanitaire
Restrictions de circulation des volailles

En raison de l'évolution des suspicions de grippe aviaire :

- les départements de Birni N'Konni et de N'Guigmi devraient prochainement être placés dans la zone d'interdit.
- les départements de Illela et Bouza devraient prochainement être placés en zone de protection.

Rappel des Mesures de Police Sanitaire préconisées par zone

1. en zone d'interdit

• Marchés de volailles interdits. En cas de non respect = saisie des volailles et destruction (par le feu ou par enfouissement, sans indemnisation). Prendre attache des services de santé pour avoir des vêtements de protection (port du masque obligatoire, la contamination humaine se fait par voie respiratoire).

• Transport et Circulation des volailles interdites dans tout la zone - non respect = saisie des volailles et destruction (sans indemnisation).

• Destruction des volailles ou produits venant du Nigeria ou d'une autre zone d'interdit (sans indemnisation).

a. dans le périmètre infecté

Toutes les volailles vivantes sont tuées et détruites (avec indemnisation). Le site du foyer est

désinfecté. La circulation des biens et des personnes étrangères au périmètre est interdite. Aucune volaille ne peut être réintroduite dans le périmètre avant la levée de la déclaration d'infection.

b. dans le périmètre sanitaire

La circulation des biens et des personnes est systématiquement contrôlée.

Les volailles sont confinées et mises en quarantaine : aucune volaille ne peut sortir du périmètre.

En cas de recours à la vaccination, toutes les volailles du cordon sanitaire sont vaccinées (vaccination périfocale).

2. en zone de protection

• Marchés de volailles sous haute surveillance : en cas de mortalités importantes (plus de 50%) et subites (en moins de 2 jours), interdiction immédiate du marché, saisie des volailles et destruction (avec indemnisation) et adresser immédiatement un rapport écrit synthétique au chef du réseau d'épidémiosurveillance et/ou au Directeur de la Santé animale.

• Interdiction du transport des volailles vers un autre département : En cas de non respect = saisie des volailles (sans indemnisation).

• Saisie et destruction des volailles ou produits venant du Nigeria ou de la zone d'interdit (sans indemnisation).

3. en zone de surveillance

• Marchés de volailles sous surveillance : en cas de mortalités importantes (plus de 50%) et subites (en moins de 2 jours), interdiction immédiate du marché, saisie des volailles et destruction (avec indemnisation) et adresser immédiatement un rapport écrit synthétique au chef du réseau d'épidémiosurveillance et/ou au Directeur de la Santé animale.

• Interdiction du transport des volailles vers une autre région (sauf à Niamey depuis les région de Dosso et Tillabéri). En cas de non respect = saisie des volailles (sans indemnisation).

• Saisie et destruction des volailles ou produits venant du Nigeria, de la zone d'interdit ou de la zone de protection (sans indemnisation).

*N° d'appel téléphonique **TAM-TAM volailles mortes** :* **99 61 17**

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opinguet@intnet.ne

Réseau SANI
Santé Animale au Niger

Grippe aviaire

Samedi 4 mars - n°2

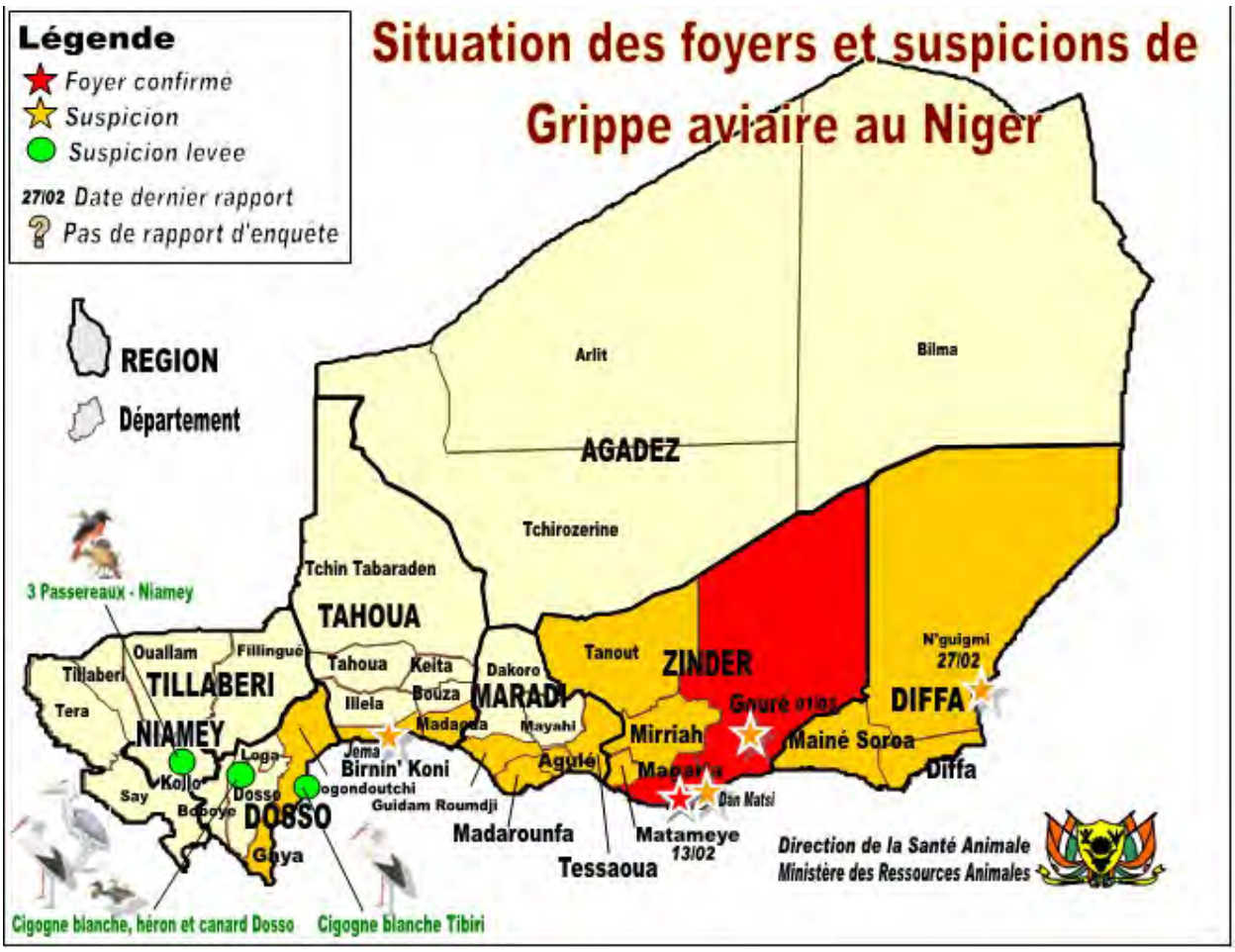
Epidémiosurveillance active, ça continue.

La Direction Départementale de Birni N'Konni a mis à profit les premiers bons carburant reçu de l'Ambassade de France (20 000 F) pour se rendre près de la frontière.
Résultat : une nouvelle suspicion enregistrée à Jema, au sud-ouest de Koni à la limite avec la frontière du Nigeria.
Il s'agit de la mortalité subite de près de 200 poules et autres volailles il y a 5 à 7 jours.

La Direction Régionale des Ressources Animales de Tahoua a demandé au laboratoire vétérinaire de Tahoua de se rendre sur place sur le champ pour réaliser des prélèvements.

Chacun peut appuyer les Services vétérinaires en adressant son soutien directement à la Direction Départementale des Ressources Animales de Birnin' Koni, à la Direction Régionale de Tahoua ou au laboratoire vétérinaire de Tahoua, avec information à la coordination centrale :

- Secrétaire Général du MRA : sg_mra@yahoo.fr
- Directeur de la Santé Animale : kioseini@yahoo.fr
- Directeur du Laboratoire National Vétérinaire : maikanoissoufou@yahoo.fr
- Réseau SANI : opinguet@intnet.ne



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Réseau SANI
Santé Animale au Niger

Grippe aviaire

Samedi 4 mars

Epidémiosurveillance active, c'est parti.

Les premiers bons carburant sont arrivés dans les services vétérinaires de Magaria, Gouré, N'Guigmi, Matameye et Mirriah. C'est encore modeste, mais cela permet de sortir les motos et commencer à répondre aux premières alertes et déclarations de mortalité transmises. Les agents se rendent sur site pour vérifier l'authenticité des suspicions et pour réaliser des prélèvements.

La Direction Régionale des Ressources Animales de Zinder a également pu se rendre à Magaria pour préparer le dispositif de police sanitaire dans le périmètre infecté et dans le cordon sanitaire.

Chacun peut appuyer les Services vétérinaires en adressant son soutien directement aux Directions Départementales des Ressources Animales, avec information à la coordination centrale :

- Secrétaire Général du MRA : sg_mra@yahoo.fr
- Directeur de la Santé Animale : kioseini@yahoo.fr
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- Réseau SANI : opinguet@intnet.ne

Les départements frontaliers avec le Nigeria ont les besoins les plus urgents.

Problématique des prélèvements.

La confirmation de la grippe aviaire ne peut être réalisée qu'en laboratoire. Toute suspicion doit faire l'objet de prélèvements qui doivent être recueillis et analysés par un laboratoire.

Réalisation des prélèvements

Les premiers prélèvements réalisés sur le terrain arrivent au laboratoire vétérinaire de Niamey et témoignent de ce qu'il est urgent de renforcer les compétences des services déconcentrés en la matière. En attendant de leur faire bénéficier d'un minimum de formation, une fiche technique en cours d'élaboration leur sera envoyée.
Les Services vétérinaires ont également pour consigne de s'approcher des Services de Santé publique pour faciliter l'acquisition d'écouvillons, de seringues, d'aiguilles, de tubes et de milieux de conservation ainsi que pour stocker les prélèvements au froid avant expédition.

Acheminement des prélèvements

Les prélèvements réalisés pour recherche virale (virus de la grippe aviaire ou de la maladie de Newcastle par exemple) doivent être acheminés sous couvert du froid. Cela nécessite l'acquisition de conditionnements étanches avec réserves de froid (ice packs). Une fois conditionnés, les prélèvements sont ensuite acheminés via une des compagnies de bus du pays jusqu'à Niamey, voire préalablement par un taxi-brousse quand le service n'est pas desservi par les grandes lignes.

Traitement des prélèvements

Seul le laboratoire vétérinaire central de Niamey peut pour l'instant traiter les prélèvements. Les 2 laboratoires de Zinder et de Tahoua pourraient prochainement traiter directement les prélèvements réalisés dans leur zone, sous réserve qu'on puisse leur transmettre une certaine compétence. Les tests disponibles à Niamey permettent d'identifier facilement le virus inflenza de type A, et prochainement le virus de sous-type H5. Malheureusement, au dernier pointage, il restait moins de 5 tests sur les 20 du kit d'analyse français.

Confirmation des résultats
Un foyer de la maladie n'est officiellement confirmé que par le résultat d'un laboratoire de référence au niveau international. C'est la raison pour laquelle les prélèvements effectués à Magaria avaient été envoyés à Padoue, en Italie. Cela nécessite un conditionnement très particulier et surtout des démarches administratives lourdes, compliquées par le zèle de responsables et d'agents qui s'imaginent qu'on attrape la maladie aussi facilement qu'en manipulant des cartons d'emballage, alors que les prélèvements y sont conditionnés dans des récipients hermétiques et étanches répondants à des normes de sécurité internationales.

Pour l'achat des matériels de prélèvement, des emballages et conditionnements, des kits d'analyse, pour l'envoi des prélèvements par bus, chacun peut appuyer les Services vétérinaires en adressant son soutien directement aux Services déconcentrés, avec information à la coordination centrale :

- Secrétaire Général du MRA : sg_mra@yahoo.fr
- Directeur de la Santé Animale : kioseini@yahoo.fr
- Directeur du Laboratoire National Vétérinaire : maikanoissoufou@yahoo.fr
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*N° d'appel téléphonique **TAM-TAM volailles mortes** :* **99 61 17**

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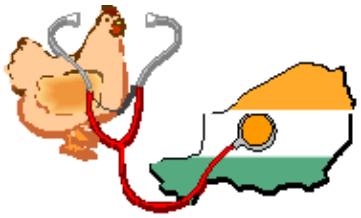

Réseau SANI
Santé Animale au Niger

Grippe aviaire

Vendredi 3 mars - n°2

Appel entendu, l'Aide se mobilise

Soulagement au Ministère des Ressources Animales.
Plusieurs partenaires se sont manifestés pour participer au Plan d'intervention de la Direction de la Santé Animale :

- L'**Ambassade de France** est sur le point d'appuyer les interventions d'urgence des Services vétérinaires sur les foyers de Magaria, notamment par l'intermédiaire du projet PSEAU, financé par l'Agence Française de Développement, avec un 1er

programme établi sur 6 semaines : prise en charge des déplacements des équipes d'intervention, carburant, équipement en matériel de protection et de prélèvement, éléments de la chaîne du froid.

- La **FAO** a passé commande d'équipements de protection, de désinfectant, de kits d'autopsie, de matériel de prélèvement, de kits diagnostic,... Une dotation en carburant devrait également permettre aux agents de réaliser l'épidémiosurveillance dans les zones de suspicion.
- La **Banque mondiale** se tient prête à débloquer une première aide d'urgence, probablement pour les interventions nécessaires sur le département de Gouré.
- La **Banque Africaine de Développement** pourrait apporter son aide pour les interventions sur le département de N'Guigmi.
- L'**USAID APHIS** à Dakar vient d'envoyer au Ministère des Ressources Animales des équipements de protection et des boîtes de prélèvement qui devraient arriver ce soir par avion.
- Le **PACE** pourrait mobiliser des fonds pour l'indemnisation des éleveurs et la commande de vaccins.
- L'**Association SOS FAUNE du NIGER** vient d'adresser une contribution au Ministère des Ressources Animales.

Les choses s'organisent peu à peu autour de ces premières contributions. La DRRA de Zinder est sur place à Magaria pour préciser les contours du périmètre infecté et du cordon sanitaire.

De son côté, l'Unité "Suivi et évaluation" étudie la meilleure manière de rendre compte en toute transparence de la situation du dispositif afin de conserver la confiance de ses partenaires.

En attendant l'Aide...

Ci-dessous une nouvelle dépêche de l'AFP qui témoigne des grandes difficultés auxquelles sont confrontées les acteurs de la lutte contre la maladie.

Grippe aviaire: le manque de moyens perturbe la lutte dans le sud nigérien

Par Natasha BURLEY

DAN ISSA (Niger), 3 mars 2006 (AFP) - Abo Massabi Ibra, commandant de la brigade de Dan Issa (50 km au sud de Maradi), estime que "la vigilance est de mise", mais que les moyens manquent au niveau local et national pour mettre en place un véritable cordon sanitaire de protection face à la grippe aviaire.

"Nous travaillons avec les services concernés pour détruire toute saisie de produits avicoles effectuée par la douane", explique Ibrahim Salissou, du service élevage de cette localité située dans la région de Zinder, d'où l'épizootie est rentrée au Niger en provenance du Nigeria.

"Mais dans l'état actuel des choses, et avec les moyens dont nous disposons, nous ne pouvons pas vraiment faire face a cette épidémie", regrette-t-il.

Pour ceinturer les zones jugées dangereuses et contrôler la situation a l'intérieur des villes et villages concernés, un comité départemental tente de mettre en place un cordon sanitaire autour des zones

infectées, indique le directeur départemental des ressources animales de Maradi, Dickou Issoufou.

Les volailles d'aspect malade sont égorgées puis brûlées dans un trou d'un mètre de profondeur, et tout transport de produits avicoles d'une ville à une autre est strictement interdit, détaille-t-il.

Cependant, le Dispositif opérationnel de lutte contre la grippe aviaire ne dispose pas des ressources logistiques pour intervenir sur le terrain et la situation dans le sud-est du pays devient critique, dénoncent plusieurs agents locaux.

"Les distances dans le département sont énormes, et sans voiture ni carburant, nous sommes prisonniers", explique le docteur Mamane Adamou, du service des ressources animales du département de Magaria, à quelque 250 kilomètres à l'est de Dan Issa, le long de la frontière nigéro-nigériane.

"Nous n'avons même pas encore pu payer les équipes de gendarmes et de police qui nous ont aidés dans nos saisies de volailles importées illégalement", poursuit-il.

Un dispositif de police sanitaire devait être progressivement mis en place autour de Magaria, mais un responsable du service des ressources animales de la région déclarait jeudi sous couvert d'anonymat "ne pas avoir eu de nouvelles des autorités de Niamey".

Un épervier trouvé mort jeudi matin près de Dakoro, au nord de Maradi, et des morts suspectes de volatiles à N'Guigmi, près de la frontière tchadienne (est), élargissent le champ de surveillance et amenuisent le personnel disponible, regrette-t-il.

Au marché de volailles de Maradi, une centaine de vendeurs attendent toujours la visite des services vétérinaires.

"On nous a promis la présence d'un vétérinaire et nous n'avons pas eu une seule visite ni inspection, ni des autorités, ni de la police", déplore Moutari Al Hassane, vendeur de poulets.

Rare exception de la région, la plus grande ferme avicole privée de Maradi reçoit quotidiennement la visite des services vétérinaires et les employés, qui portent des masques, ont été formés à reconnaître les symptômes de la grippe aviaire, rapporte Sunana Hayabana, un des employés.

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global information and early warning system on food and agriculture

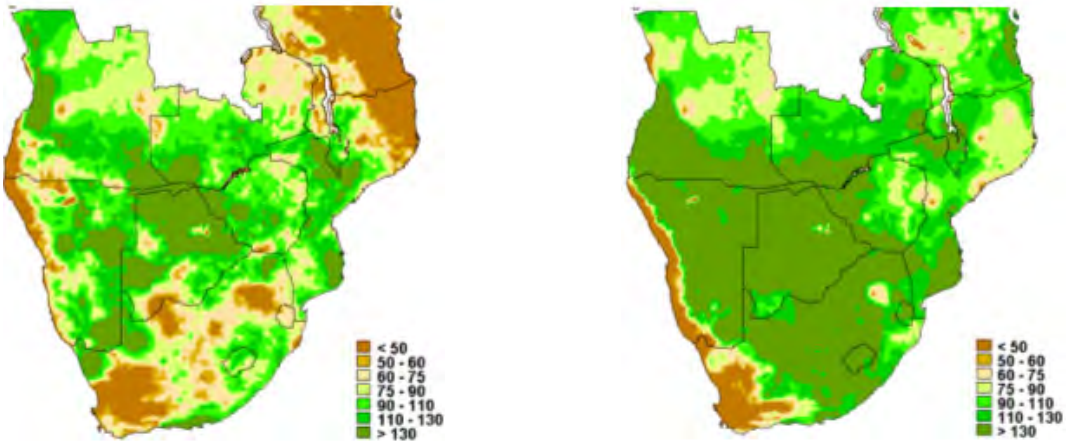
Crop Prospects and Food Situation in Southern Africa

----------April 2006----------

(Updated on 25 April 2006)

In **Southern Africa,** rainfall, especially during the critical months of January and February, for the main season crops planted in November-December was very favourable. More specifically, central parts of the region has received significant amount of precipitation through out this season, except during April so far. However, erratic rains including some dry spells were experienced on the southern periphery of the region (namely in parts of South Africa, Lesotho, and Swaziland), on the northern periphery (in areas such as northern Malawi, northern Zambia and northern Mozambique) and on the western edge (namely in south west Angola). Estimated cumulative rainfall during the first half and the second half of the season is shown in the satellite images (Figure 1a and 1b) below and the resulting NDVI for the most recent dekad for the region is shown in Figure 2. In much of the central part of the region, good rains not withstanding the yields will also depend on other factors as availability of key inputs (fertilizer, chemicals and/or labour for weeding, etc.). Leaching of nutrients due to excessive rains and waterlogging conditions, at certain times, has been a problem in Mozambique, Malawi, Zimbabwe, Namibia, and Angola among other areas.

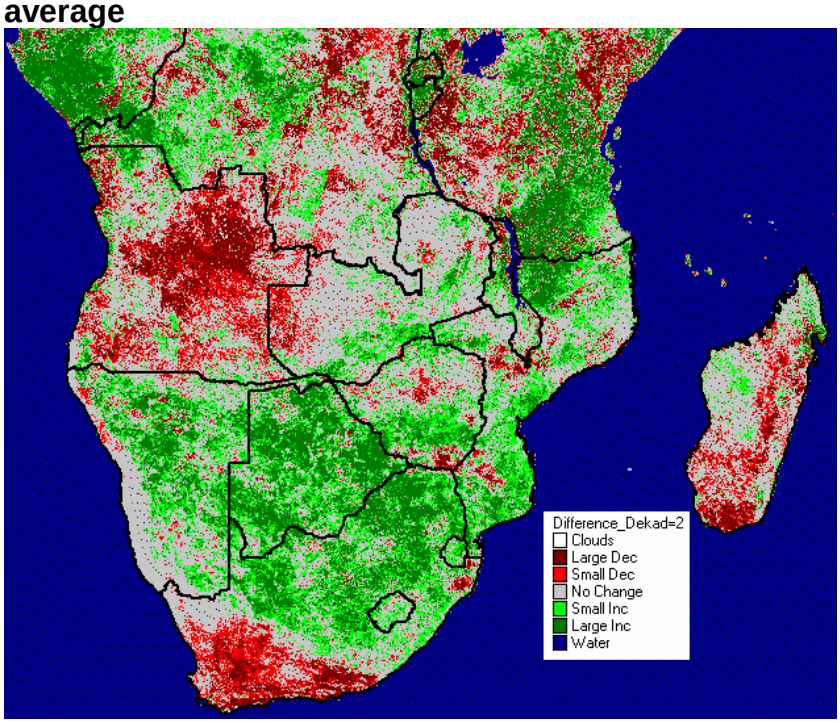
Figure 1: Seasonal Rainfall, Percentage of normal (1961-90)
1a: 1 October 2005 – 31 December 2005 and 1b: 1 January – 31 March 2006



Data source: NOAA, FAO; by FAO-SDRN, Agrometeorology Group

FOOD AND AGRICULTURE ORGANIZATION OF THE UNITED NATIONS, ROME

Figure 2: Southern Africa: NDVI April 2006, dekad 2 – difference with long term average



If normal weather conditions prevail for the rest of the season, the outlook for the region's (excluding South Africa) aggregate 2006 maize crop, to be harvested in April-May, is favourable, and output is forecast preliminarily at 6.9 million tonnes, the largest crop since 2000, about 27 percent over the last year's drought affected output and 21 percent over the past five year average (see Table 1). This mainly reflects a substantial recovery in maize and cereal production from the drought affected previous year in **Botswana, Malawi, Zambia, Zimbabwe, Namibia and Mozambique.** In addition, this early forecast suggests that **Madagascar, Lesotho,** and **Swaziland** are likely to achieve more or less similar outputs as 2005. However, **Angola** due to dry spells and **South Africa** due to reduction in maize planted area, caused primarily by low maize prices in 2005, are forecast to experience reduced cereal harvests this year. Maize production in South Africa is forecast to decline by over 5 million tonnes from the year before. However, with current stocks at a record level of over 4.5 million tonnes (end of March 2006), immediate food availability at national and regional level is not likely to be affected drastically. Southwest and central parts of Angola, the main cereal growing areas in the country, have been experiencing drought since October 2005. More precise evaluation of the situation would be available later since the Crop and Food Supply Assessment Missions (CFSAMs) are planned for Angola to be carried out from the beginning of May 2006.

In **Southern Africa**, prospects for planting of the 2006 winter season crops from May are favourable, reflecting upward trend in the domestic and international prices of wheat since the beginning of the year and improved residual soil moisture. FAO's final estimate of the 2005 wheat crop, harvested last November, is put at 2.1 million tonnes, about 10 percent better than the previous year's drought-affected production. About 90 percent of the total was accounted for by South Africa, where output increased by nearly 12 percent over previous year's production, although it still remained below the average of the past five years.

Table 1: Southern Africa, maize production: Early 2006 forecast and comparison with 2005 estimates and 2001-05 average

	2001-05 Average ('000 t)	2005 Estimate ('000 t)	2006 Forecast* ('000 t)	2006 over 2005 (%)	2006 over Average (%)
Increase in production anticipated:					
Botswana	7	4	10	150%	43%
Zimbabwe	844	550	950	73%	13%
Malawi	1623	1253	1950	56%	20%
Zambia	906	866	1200	39%	32%
Namibia	33	41	45	10%	36%
Mozambique	1252	1403	1500	7%	20%
No significant changes expected:					
Lesotho	103	92	92	0%	-11%
Madagascar	274	350	350	0%	28%
Swaziland	76	82	82	0%	8%
Decrease in production anticipated:					
Angola	549	768	700	-9%	28%
South Africa	9796	11716	6377	-46%	-35%
Southern Africa including South Africa	**15463**	**17125**	**13256**	**-23%**	-14%
Southern Africa excluding South Africa	5667	5409	6879	27%	21%

Source: FAO/GIEWS

* Assuming normal climatology for the remainder of the season.

Food Security Situation – The hunger season has reached its peak, with household food stocks nearly exhausted. However, early harvest or use of green maize is expected to provide some relief until the main harvest becomes available shortly. Nearly 12 million people were affected by food insecurity during the 2005/06 (marketing year which ended in March for most countries), large number of them in chronic situation, and require emergency assistance until the next harvest becomes available in Zimbabwe, Malawi, Swaziland, Lesotho, Mozambique and Zambia. Food shortages are reflected in rising staple food prices, especially in Zimbabwe and Malawi. In **Zimbabwe,** maize price in parallel market was Z$600 000/20kg in first week of March up from about Z$400 000 from the month before. Prices of most cereal based goods went up by about one-third in about one month keeping in track with the national inflation rate. Recent figures show that annual inflation in March reached an unprecedented level of 914 percent. Food aid distributions in February reached 54 000 tonnes and the same levels are planned for March and April. In **Malawi,** total cereal imports for the 2005/06 marketing year (April/March) have been estimated at 238 000 tonnes at commercial level, including about 165 000 tonnes through informal cross-border trade. Confirmed food aid pledges as early as mid-November were at around 223 000 tonnes, although the bulk of this food has been very slow to arrive in the country. Due to the start of early harvest, maize prices in most markets have either stabilized or began to fall in April.

Regional Balance - The overall cereal import requirement of the sub-region, excluding South Africa, for the 2005/06 marketing year (April-March), was estimated at about 4.4 million tonnes, comprising 700 000 tonnes of food aid. Virtually all the food aid requirements have been covered by pledges and on-going distributions are

contributing to improve the food situation of the most vulnerable households. However, commercial imports of cereals, estimated at some 3.5 million tonnes by the end of March, fall short of requirements, especially that of wheat and rice. Due to slow pace of commercial and food aid imports, prices of maize have been on the raise in several countries in past months.

Prospects for the regional food supply in 2006/07 marketing year also look relatively favourable. Total maize supply (2006 production plus the carry over stocks) in the Republic of South Africa is forecast to be about 10 million tonnes. Given the estimated utilization of about 8.4 million tonnes (including about 600 000 tonnes of strategic reserves) in that country, the potential exportable surplus is likely to be around 1.6 million tonnes. This surplus would be almost sufficient to cover the aggregate maize import requirements of other countries of the region which are estimated at about 1.7 million tonnes based on the preliminary forecast of maize production for 2006 and the historical utilization in the region. In anticipation of the reduction in the domestic maize production in South Africa, contrary to the usual post-harvest trend, the SAFEX futures price of white maize is expected to firm up by moving from R1099/t in April to R1163/t in December 2006.

Further information on specific countries can be found on the GIEWS Workstation at:
http://www.fao.org/giews/workstation/page.jspx

FAO/GIEWS Global Watch

12 May 2006

Severe and Prolonged Drought Threatens Food Security in Western China

Several provinces in Western and North China have experienced a prolonged drought, with reduced rainfall and higher temperatures. Hundreds of reservoirs have dried up and tens of thousands of wells are either dry or nearly empty. Some five million hectares of winter crops are estimated to have been lost or damaged, and the areas planted in spring crops have been reduced substantially. The most affected provinces include Yunnan, Gansu, Ningxia, Inner Mongolia, and Hebei.

The drought in Ningxia started in 2004 and some districts have not received substantial rainfall for over 600 days. In the worst-hit districts, over 60 percent of winter wheat crops were reported as totally lost, with a 40-50 percent reduction in output in the remaining areas. Out of 940 000 hectares of planned spring crops, only some 30 percent were planted. In Hebei Province, some 2.3 million hectares of agricultural land have been severely affected by two consecutive drought seasons, and the level of groundwater has fallen by 0.6 meters.

The affected areas are among the poorest regions of China, with 2004 per capita annual incomes of rural households of $227 in Yunnan, $226 in Gansu, and $283 in Ningxia. Over half of rural households are under the poverty line and have great difficulty in access to food markets. The drought will have a serious impact on vulnerable groups, particularly in affected mountain areas, where there are few alternative sources of income. Rural populations, including elementary school children in Ningxia, have reportedly reduced the number of daily meals from three to two.

Following the recent visit of the Prime Minister to drought stricken areas, the government is planning a response to the crisis.

FAO/GIEWS Global Watch

7 June 2006

Zimbabwe Maize Production Update

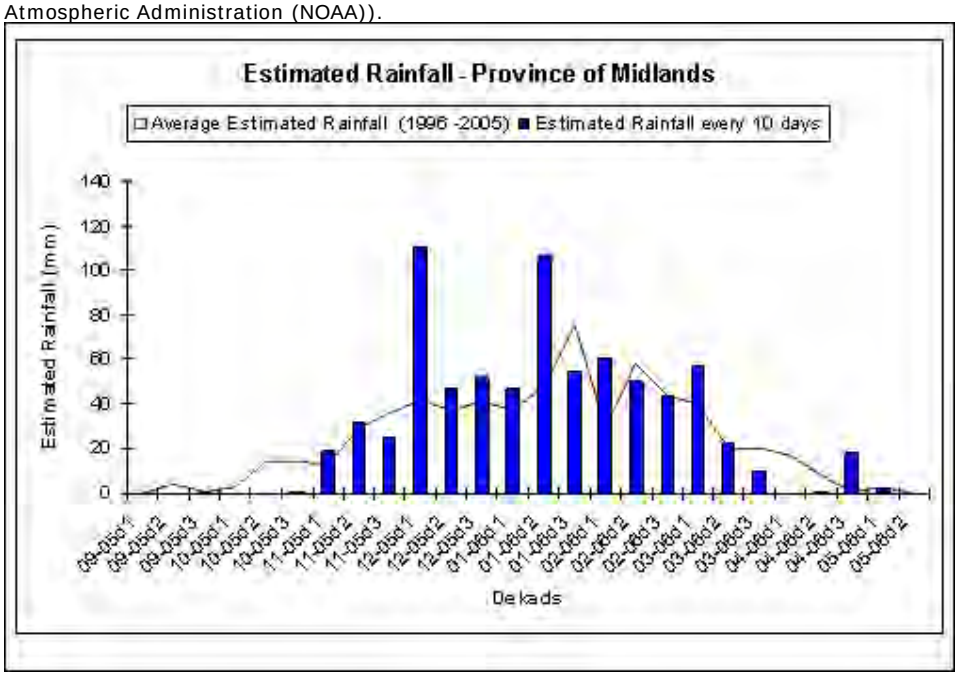
In Zimbabwe, harvesting of maize and other main season crops is almost completed. Rainfall this season had been normal to above normal from the start in November 2005 throughout the country. Rains ended in late March potentially affecting adversely the late planted crops (See estimated rainfall for different provinces in Figure 1, panels 1 to 10). Problems of seed availability were reported at the beginning of the season but by December, with combined efforts of the Government, NGOs and FAO, sufficient amount of cereal seed was made available. However, with very little domestic production of fertilizer and lack of significant imports due to scarce foreign currency, this key input had been in short supply in the country. Overall maize and cereal production prospects look favourable compared to last year's drought-affected output of about 550 000 tonnes for maize. However, it is unlikely to reach the official government forecast estimate of 1.8 million tonnes announced earlier last month.

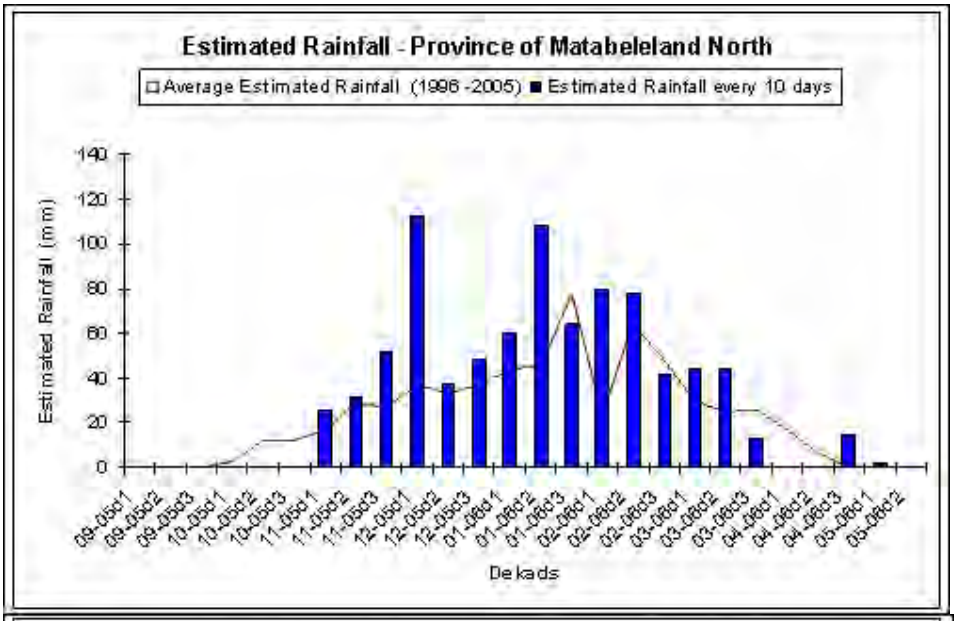
FAO's current forecast for 2006 points to maize production within the range of 1 to 1.2 million tonnes. In comparison, in February 2006, USDA, based on the mid-term field visits and analysis of satellite images, estimated the maize harvest at 900 000 tonnes. Furthermore, in May, the European Space Agency's, Global Monitoring for Food Security (GMFS) Project, based on partial satellite imagery processing , estimated the area under maize cultivation at 1.31 million hectares, and total maize production at 1.16 million tonnes (see details).

In addition to maize, crops such as millet and sorghum, on which fertilizer is normally not applied in Zimbabwe, have reportedly done very well this year. Thus for the total Zimbabwean population of 11.75 million, the preliminary estimate of maize import requirement for 2006/07 marketing year (April/March) is put at about 300 000 tonnes, about one-fourth of the level of the previous year. Commercial import capacity is limited by the continuing downward trends in export earnings from main crops such as tobacco and cotton, although this is offset by rising metal export prices as well as official and unofficial remittances from the large number of Zimbabweans living outside the country estimated at over 3 million.

Additional information on the food production, food security situation and other vulnerability aspects should soon be available from the Zimbabwe Vulnerability Analysis Committee (VAC), which is conducting its main annual assessment.

Figure 1: Panels 1 to 10: Interpolated Estimated Rainfall (IER), Zimbabwe, September 2005 dekad 1 to May 2006 dekad 2. (Analysis by GIEWS based on images distributed by FAO/ARTEMIS and based on the Decadal Rainfall Estimates generated by the Climate Prediction Centre (CPC) of the U.S. National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA)).




Estimated Rainfall - Province of Matabeleland North
Average Estimated Rainfall (1996 -2005)
Estimated Rainfall every 10 days
Estimated Rainfall (mm)
140
120
100
80
60
40
20
0
09-05d1
09-05d2
09-05d3
10-05d1
10-05d2
10-05d3
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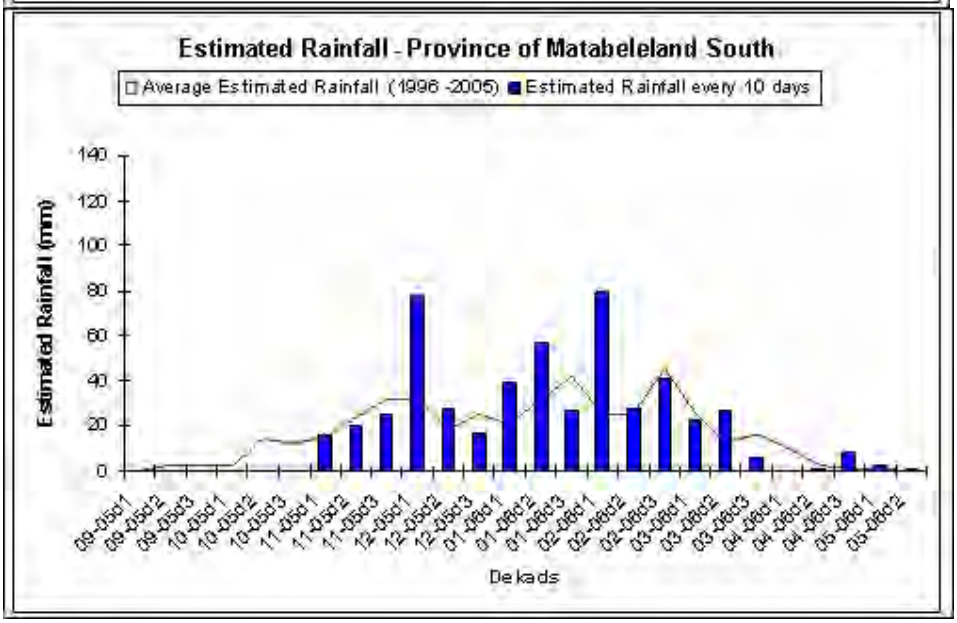
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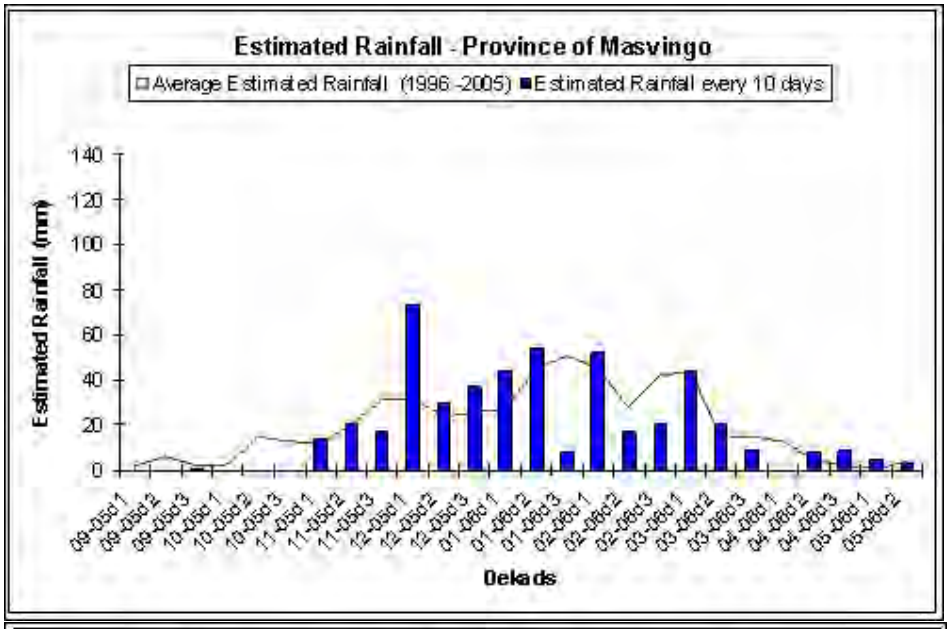
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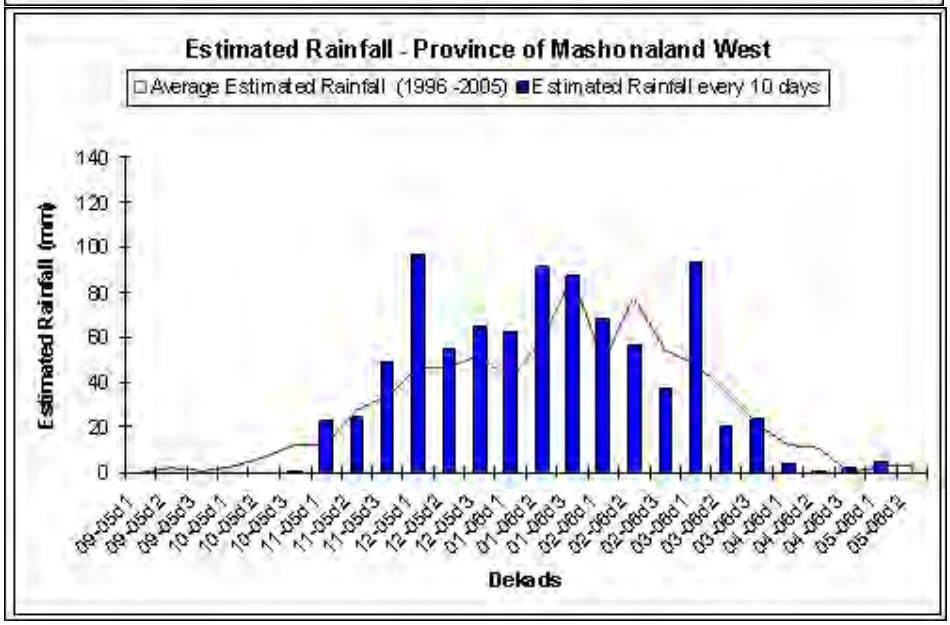
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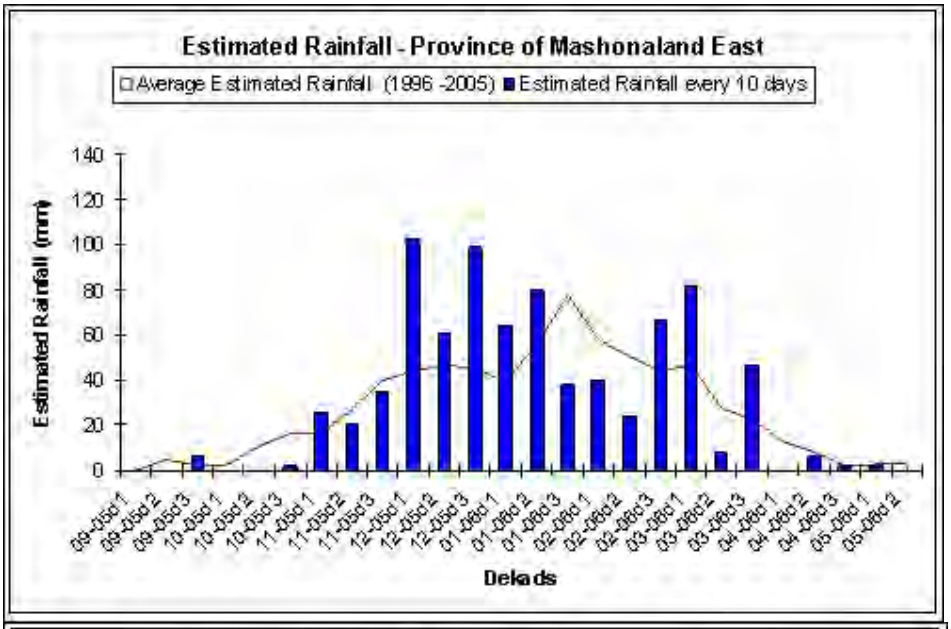
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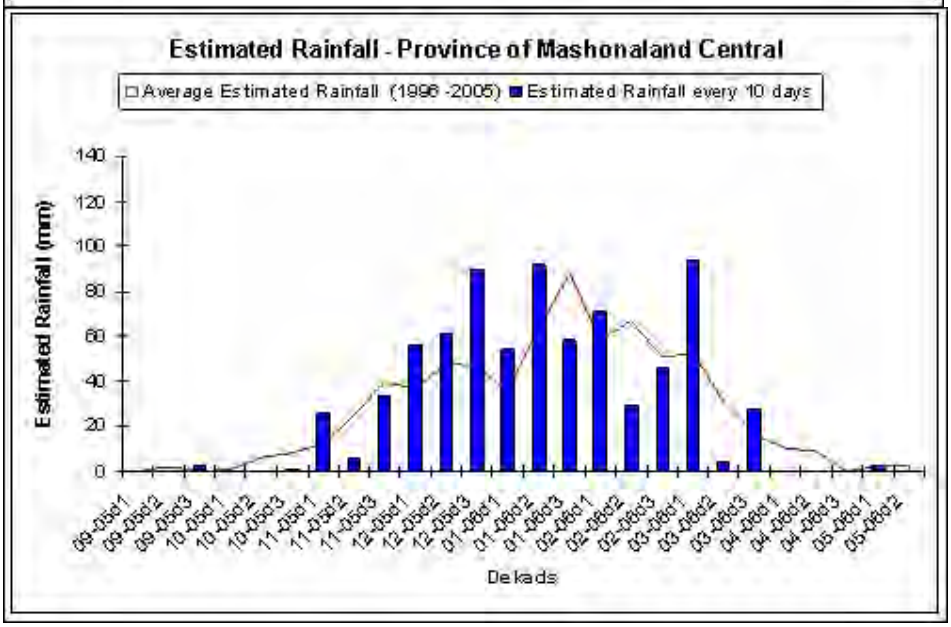
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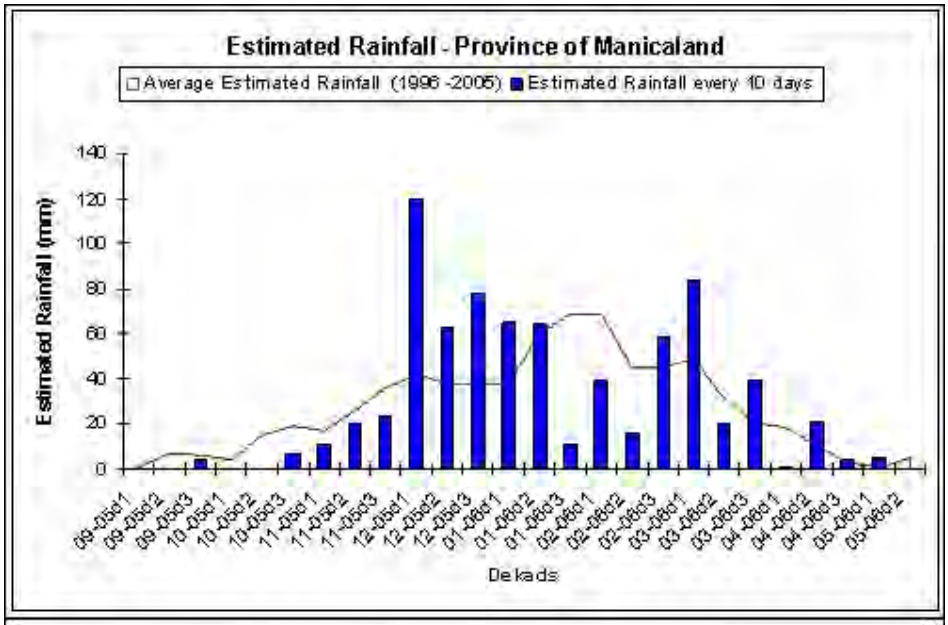
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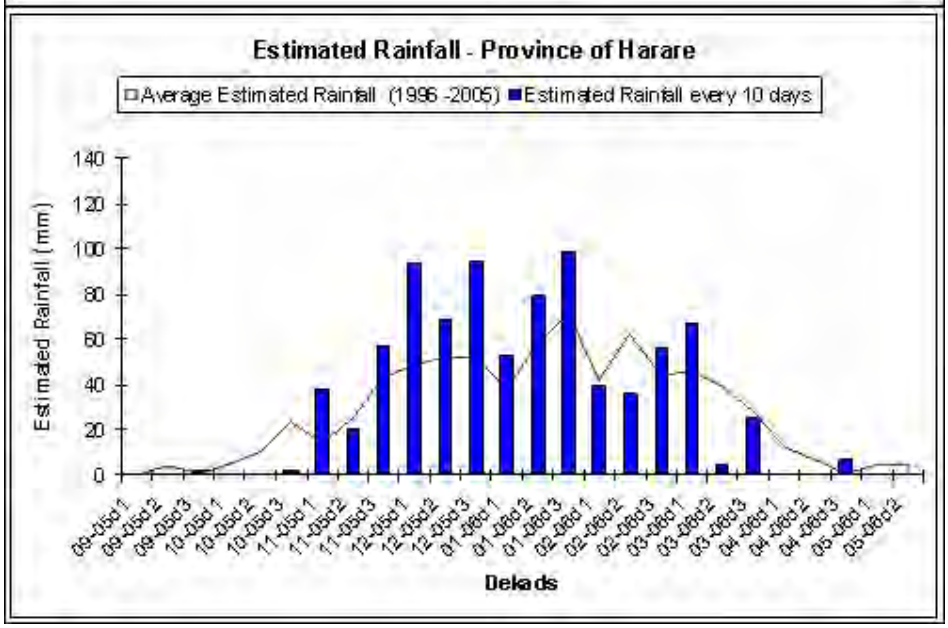
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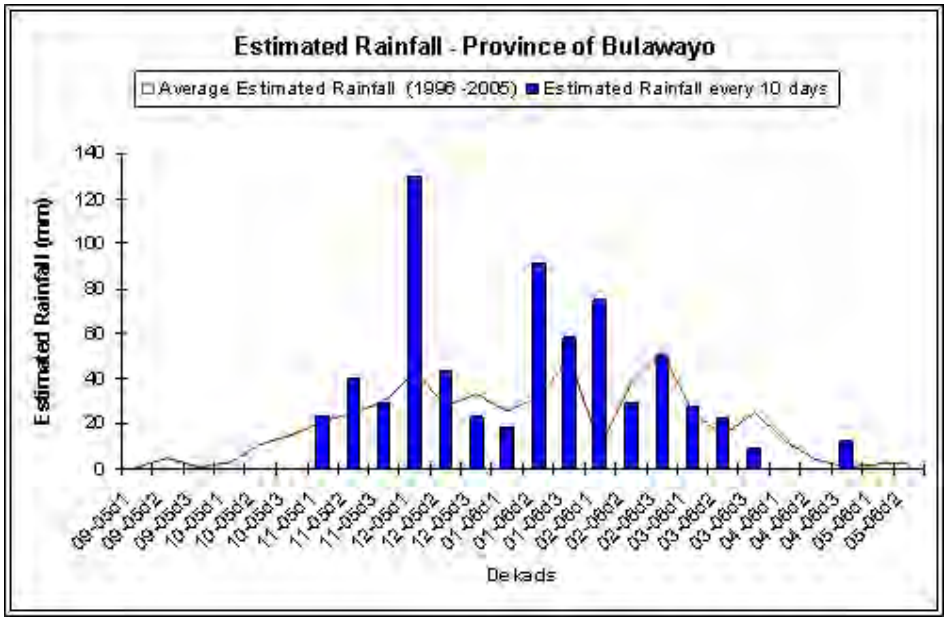
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GIEWS COUNTRY UPDATES

as of **late June 2006**

AFRICA

NORTH AFRICA

ALGERIA (29 June)

Normal to abundant rains at planting and during the development stage have benefited the 2006 winter cereal crops. Harvesting has started and output of wheat, the main cereal, is provisionally forecast at 2.7 million tonnes, some 18 percent above the average of the past five years and a recovery from the 2005 drought affected crop of 2.35 million tonnes. An above-average barley output of some 1.3 million tonnes is also tentatively forecast.

Wheat imports in marketing year 2006/07 (July/June) are expected to decrease from the previous year's volume of 5.2 million tonnes to some 4.6 million tonnes. Maize imports are also expected to decrease from 2 million tonnes to about 1.8 million tonnes in marketing year 2006/07 (July/June).

EGYPT (29 June)

Harvesting of the 2006 wheat crop is nearly complete while that of maize is underway. The outlook is good as the crops benefited from normal to abundant rains at planting time and during growth. The area sown to wheat is also officially estimated to have expanded, and wheat output is expected to rise further from the bumper level of almost 8.2 million tonnes already achieved in 2005. An average maize production of about 6.6 million tonnes is also forecast.

Reflecting the anticipated good wheat output, wheat imports in marketing year 2006/07 (July/June) are expected to decrease from 7.5 million tonnes last year to about 7 million tonnes.

MOROCCO (29 June)

Normal to abundant rains at planting and during crop development stages benefited the 2006 winter crops. Moreover, government policy to encourage investment in agriculture, in particular, increased subsidies to farmers to expand mechanization and use of high quality seeds, is reported to have made a significant contribution to improve production prospects this year. Output of wheat, the main cereal, is officially estimated at an all time record of 6.1 million tonnes, nearly 50 percent above the average of the past five years and twice the level of the 2005 drought-affected crop. An above average barley production of about 2.5 million tonnes is also forecast.

Wheat imports in marketing year 2006/07 (July/June) are forecast to decline from 3 million tonnes last year to about 1 million tonnes. Maize imports are also anticipated to decrease by 7 percent to about 1.3 million tonnes in marketing year 2006/07 (July/June).

TUNISIA (29 June)

After sowing of the wheat and barley crops has been completed under generally favourable weather conditions, a 50-day dry spell through late April has resulted in crop failure in many parts of the country. Harvesting has only started and production of wheat, the main cereal, is provisionally forecast to decrease from last year's 1.6 million tonnes to some 1.3 million tonnes. A below-average barley output is also anticipated.

Wheat imports in marketing year 2006/07 (July/June) should, nevertheless, remain close to the 1.2 million tonnes in marketing year 2005/06.

WESTERN AFRICA

BENIN (29 June)

The cropping season started in April in the South with sufficient rainfall to allow planting of the first maize crop. Precipitation remained generally sufficient for adequate crop development in the South, but limited rainfall may have affected planting of sorghum and millet in the North. Localized replanting may have occurred in some areas.

Low cotton prices combined with a disruption of input and output markets in the cotton sector have negatively affected farmers' incomes in recent years, significantly increasing the vulnerability of the estimated 2 million people who depend on cotton for their livelihood, mostly in the North of the country. This, along with the Nigeria's protectionist policy and the tightening of controls against re-export trade is making access to food increasingly difficult for a large section of the population.

BURKINA FASO (29 June)

Although significant rains fell in May in the southern part of the country allowing land preparation and first plantings to start, dry weather conditions were still reported in June in several regions of the countries notably in the centre, raising concerns over the outcome of the cropping season.

Following release of the final 2005 cereal production figures, the aggregate cereal production is estimated at 3.6 million tonnes, an increase of about 26 percent over the drought and desert locust-affected crop of 2004. This, in addition to increased cotton production and adequate food supply in neighbouring countries, has resulted in improved household access to food in marketing year 2005/06 (November/October). However, the severe food crisis of 2005 resulted in depletion of household assets including high livestock mortalities and indebtedness, notably in the northern part of the country, where very high malnutrition rates continue to be reported. Income-generating and asset reconstitution interventions are recommended to support livelihoods in affected communities during the lean season.

CAPE VERDE (29 June)

Seasonably dry conditions prevail. Planting of maize normally starts in July with the onset of rains on the main islands. Seed shortages are likely following the 2005 poor harvest.

Production of maize (the only cereal grown) in 2005 has been estimated at some 3 600 tonnes. This level of production is only one fourth of the average for the previous five years and is similar to the poor crops harvested in 1997 and 1998. Although the country imports the bulk of its consumption requirement even in a good year, the rural population, particularly in the semi-arid zones, could be severely affected.

CHAD (29 June)

Land preparation for sowing of coarse grains is in progress in the Sahelian zone, while in the Sudanian zone crops are emerging. Following a record 2005 cereal crop, the overall food supply situation is satisfactory this marketing year (November/October).

However, increased insecurity in recent weeks has severely constrained access for humanitarian relief to the Sudanese refugees who are living in the eastern part of the country. Moreover, insecurity in neighbouring Central African Republic has led to an influx of about 15 000 refugees over the last year, bringing the total number of Central African refugees to over 45 000.

CÔTE D'IVOIRE (29 June)

Planting of the first maize crop is complete in the South, while sowing of millet and sorghum crops is underway in the North. Growing conditions have been adequate so far, allowing a satisfactory development/emergence or crops. However, agricultural activities continue to be affected by conflict-induced problems, especially labour shortages arising from population displacements, lack of agricultural support services in parts of the country, market segmentation, disruptions by insecurity, and excessive transport costs. And food security for many households continues to be hampered by disruption of livelihoods. In the North, smallholder cotton producers are experiencing a significant loss of income due to the disruption of marketing services. The situation is expected to improve this year due to progress made so far in the peace process.

GAMBIA, REPUBLIC OF (29 June)

The rains have started in early June in the eastern part of the country allowing land preparation and first plantings. Precipitation covered the entire country during the third dekad but rainfall level remained significantly below average in the East, according to satellite imagery, which may have caused some replanting. Seed availability is expected to be adequate following the good 2005 harvest.

A record cereal production combined with a good groundnut output in 2005 has resulted in improved household access to food in marketing year 2005/06 (November/October). However, the country imports nearly half of its cereal consumption requirements (mostly rice and wheat) in a normal year and cereal prices are strongly affected by the exchange rate of the Dalassi, the national currency, which is very vulnerable to exogenous shocks due to the country's limited source of foreign exchange. Moreover, in districts affected by floods, a number of households may experience food difficulties during the year.

GHANA (29 June)

Rains have been regular and widespread since the beginning of the major season in April in the South and prospects for the first maize crop, to be harvested from August, are very good, provided favourable weather conditions persist.

In spite of two consecutive years of average crops, the food supply situation in the country has been satisfactory and prices relatively stable so far, due to limited exports to neighbouring countries where good crops have been harvested.

GUINEA (29 June)

Insufficient rains are reported in parts of the country which may delay planting of the rice crop, notably in the East.

Following a strong depreciation of the Guinea Franc, the price of rice - the staple food for Guineans- more than doubled over the past two years. Petrol prices also increased steeply in recent months fuelling inflation and seriously eroding the purchasing power and access to food of both urban and rural populations. The monthly wage has depreciated by 40 percent within the Civil Service. Moreover, about 40 000 refugees are still dependent on humanitarian assistance in the country, although the restoration of peace in Sierra Leone and the improved situation in Liberia have resulted in a relative decrease of the number of refugees.

GUINEA-BISSAU (29 June)

The rainy season started in early June. Land preparation and plantings of coarse grains and rainfed rice are underway. Transplanting of swamp rice from seedbeds will take place in July/August after desalination of swamp rice fields. Area planted may be affected by seed shortage in the southern regions where the rice crop failed last year, as well as in the chronically food-deficit areas along the northern border with Senegal.

According to official sources, national cereal production is estimated to have increased significantly in 2005. However, in the southern regions of Quinara and Tombali heavy rains, floods and salination of irrigation channels resulted in a serious decline in rice output. The failure of the rice

crop has been compounded by marketing problems in the cashew sector, the main source of cash income for rural households, leading to severe localized food insecurity and seed shortages. In northern parts, fighting and insecurity has led to the displacement of about 15 000 people in late March. In early May, the Government appealed for US$2 million to distribute seeds and food to the flood-affected populations, while UN agencies launched a joint appeal for over US$3.6 million to assist the displaced populations in the north of the country. Overall, the majority of the Guinea-Bissau population is facing chronic food insecurity, with a stagnant economy and 65 percent of the population living below the poverty line.

LIBERIA (29 June)

Planting of the 2006 paddy crop, virtually the only cereal grown in the country is underway. Food production is expected to recover this year, due mainly to the pest control measures undertaken with the assistance of FAO. Plant disease was the major cause of low yields last year. The improved security situation is also expected to boost plantings by returning refugees and former displaced farmers.

In spite of improved security, agricultural production did not recover significantly in 2005 due to widespread pest infestations (mainly cassava mosaic, rodents and birds) and severe damage to rice and cassava crops across the country. A Crop and Food Security Assessment Mission organized by the Government jointly with FAO and WFP in January estimated over 50 percent drop in yields of food crops. Agricultural recovery was also hampered by limited supplies of seeds and implements. Moreover, the late return of IDPs and returnees did not give them the opportunity to prepare enough land for planting. 2005 production level is insufficient to meet household food needs in commercial year 2006, unless supplemented with WFP food assistance, especially during the critical lean months. WFP will continue to provide assistance to households through various modalities, until the resettled population becomes self-reliant. It is projected that about 171 000 farmers will need seeds and implements in 2006.

The repatriation of refugees and resettlement of IDPs started in October and November 2004 respectively. As of early June, some 68 917 returnees have been repatriated by UNHCR, and 321 634 persons de-registered from IDP camps.

MALI (29 June)

The start of the rainy season what somewhat erratic with below average precipitation recorded across the country through June. Plantings have been delayed in several regions and emerging crops will suffer water stress if rains do not improve in July.

The overall food supply position in 2006 is anticipated to remain satisfactory reflecting a good cereal harvest in the country and across the region in 2005. However, like several other Sahelian countries, Mali faced a severe food crisis characterised by unusually high food prices in 2005. The crisis that was triggered by cereal and pasture shortages across the sub-region resulted in depletion of household assets including livestock and high level of indebtedness, particularly among pastoral and agro-pastoral groups. In spite of the good harvest at national level, income generating and asset reconstitution activities are recommended to support livelihoods in the affected communities during the lean season.

MAURITANIA (29 June)

The first significant rains were received in June in the extreme South. They allowed land preparation and planting to start. Elsewhere, seasonably dry conditions prevail.

Cereal production recovered in 2005 after several years of poor harvests which have gradually eroded the rural population's coping strategies and led to a very difficult food situation. Mauritania is a food-deficit country whose production covers about half of the country's cereal utilization needs in a normal year and food prices are strongly influenced by the exchange rate of the Ouguiya. The succession of crop failures and the very high food prices observed across the Sahel in 2005 have had a severe negative impact on household incomes and assets for large sections of the population. According to FEWSNet, the hunger period came early this year for about 100 000 households whose cereal production was not enough to cover current needs and which incurred high debts last

year. Prices of millet and sorghum are high. Approximately 200 000 children are malnourished according to UNICEF, and malnutrition rates are reported to be on the increase. In mid-June WFP warned that its relief operation in Mauritania will face a complete break in supplies at the end of July when the country will be at the height of the hunger season, and appealed for urgent aid to assist vulnerable groups, as necessary, during the hunger season.

NIGER (29 June)

The start of the rainy season what somewhat erratic with below average rains recorded in the country through June. Only 36 percent of the villages have planted as of late June, compared to about 80 percent at the same time last year. Availability of seeds may also be limited in parts of the country. Infestations of grasshoppers, army worms and rodents are reported in a few locations.

The overall food supply situation is anticipated to remain satisfactory in marketing year 2005/06 (November/October), due to increased cereal production in Niger and in neighbouring countries which usually export cereals to Niger, notably Nigeria, Benin, Mali and Burkina Faso. However, high levels of acute malnutrition are still reported across the country. Milk production is reported to remain below normal in the pastoral areas most affected by last year's crisis, which is likely to lead to further deterioration in the nutritional status of children over the course of the hunger season. Localized food insecurity remains also in other parts of the country and the situation could deteriorate further if adequate assistance is not provided during the lean season.

As recommended by the joint SAP/FAO/WFP/FEWSNet Mission which visited the country in October-November 2005, income-generating and asset reconstitution activities are needed to support livelihoods of vulnerable people during the current lean season. These should include food-for-work and herd reconstitution schemes, therapeutic and feeding centres, school lunch programmes, cereal bank stocks, and micro-finance for productive and commercial activities.

NIGERIA (29 June)

Harvesting of the first maize crop has started in the South. Conditions have been generally adequate so far and overall prospects are favourable. In the North, planting of sorghum is still underway.

Aggregate cereal production in 2005 has been estimated at about 24 million tonnes, some 17 percent above the average for the previous five years, reflecting generally favourable growing conditions during the cropping season. Per caput cereal consumption is forecast to recover somewhat in commercial year 2006 (January/December) from the drought affected low level of the previous year.

Cereal imports have trended upwards in recent years, due mainly to high urban population growth, changing consumption pattern, increased feed use in the rapidly growing poultry sector and the continuous expansion of the country's milling capacity. In spite of the tightening of controls on illegal rice and wheat inflows, and the potential negative effects of the avian flu epidemic on the poultry sector, imports of cereals are forecast to increase to over 5 million tonnes in 2006.

SENEGAL (29 June)

Following early rains in the extreme south-east in May, precipitation covered the centre and the north in June. Plantings of coarse grains are underway in the south and the centre, where crops are emerging. Pastures are starting to regenerate in the south, but overall pasture availability is still limited. Availability of seeds may be limited in parts of the country.

Following release of the final 2005 cereal production figures, aggregate cereal production is estimated at 1.44 million tonnes, which is 30 percent above previous year's desert locust and drought-affected crop and 32 percent higher than the average for the previous five years. Maize production continues to grow due to a significant expansion of cultivated area, driven by government programmes with the assistance of FAO. However, localised food insecurity in reported in several regions of the country due mainly to marketing problems in the groundnut sector which is the main source of cash income for most rural households.

SIERRA LEONE (29 June)

Planting of the rice crop is underway and overall growing conditions have been satisfactory so far. Agriculture, which has been recovering steadily since the end of the civil war in 2002, is expected to improve further this year, reflecting increasing plantings by returning refugees and farmers previously displaced, as well as improved conditions for the distribution of agricultural inputs.

TOGO (29 June)

Planting of the first maize crop was completed in May. Growing conditions remained adequate with sufficient rainfall for adequate crop development.

Following generally favourable growing conditions during the 2005 rainy season, food production (including cereals, cassava, beans and plantains) is estimated to have risen by 5.5 percent compared to 2004, according to official sources. The overall food supply situation is expected to remain satisfactory in marketing year 2006 (January/December).

CENTRAL AFRICA

CAMEROON (29 June)

Planting of the 2006 main maize crop, to be harvested from July, has been completed under normal weather conditions. The rainy season has started also in the Northern Sector of the country, where planting of millet and sorghum is underway.

The country experienced adequate agro-climatic conditions in 2005, and crop production was estimated to be above normal. This has contributed to an improved food supply situation in the northern part of the country, where a serious decline in the 2004 cereal production led to a tight food situation in 2005, notably in the Chari and Logone Divisions of the extreme north. Although high maize prices are currently reported in the North, due mainly to important exports to Chad and Sudan, the price of millet and sorghum has remained relatively stable with positive effects on access to food by vulnerable consumers.

CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC (29 June)

Harvesting of the first 2006 maize crop is about to start. Satellite imagery indicates that rains have been abundant and widespread since the beginning of the cropping season in April. However, a strong agricultural recovery is not expected due to persistent insecurity notably in the north and inadequate availability of agricultural inputs. About 20 000 people have fled the country to southern Chad over the past year, bringing the number of Central African refugees in the latter country to over 45 000. Another 50 000 people have been internally displaced. The bulk of the Central African Republic population is facing chronic food insecurity, with approximately 73 percent of the population living in abject poverty, surviving on less than one US dollar a day. Chronic malnutrition affects 39 percent of the population, with some 10 percent of children suffering from severe malnutrition.

DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF THE CONGO (2 JULY 2006)

In the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC), rainfall for the secondary season maize crop has been generally favourable throughout the country except in the northern-most areas where long dry spells were experienced, especially during December and January. Harvesting of the 2005 second season food crops, principally sorghum and millet, was completed during September-November with normal to above normal harvest. Main season maize plantings start in June-July in the north and continue until October in the south. Harvesting of maize follows from September starting in the north and continues until February in the south. No accurate estimates of the total harvest in 2006 are available at this stage, but a normal to above normal harvest is expected, judging from satellite imagery analysis.

Total cereal import requirements for 2006 are anticipated at about the same level as for 2005. The estimated imports in 2005 were about 500 000 tonnes, most of them imported commercially with the exception of some 87 000 tonnes which came in the form of food aid. The majority of commercial imports consisted of wheat and most of the food aid consisted of maize. Although the general security situation has improved over the last two years, localized disturbances continue to be reported. According to WFP an estimated 220 000 people have been uprooted by fighting between the Government and Mayi-Mayi rebels in Katanga and another 80 000 displaced in North Kivu Province and up to 1.6 million internally displaced persons (IDPs) and other vulnerable people nationwide need assistance. Recent fighting has displaced at least 10 000 people in the northeastern district of Ituri.

CONGO, REP OF (29 June)

Cassava is the major staple food and accounts for over 80 percent of total calorie intake. Domestic cereal production covers about 3 percent of total cereal requirements; the balance is imported, mostly on commercial terms. Cereal import requirements for marketing year 2006 are projected at about 295 000 tonnes.

The effects of the 1997-99 civil war continue to be felt in the agricultural sector due to the disruption of production and marketing activities across the country. The Government has been implementing a Disarmament, Demobilization and Reintegration (DDR) programme for former militiamen since October 2005. About 30 000 former combatants are to benefit from reintegration under the DDR, but the volatile security situation, notably in the Pool region, is affecting the programme and disrupting delivery of humanitarian assistance. According to the UNHCR, the country hosts a large number of refugees from conflicts in neighbouring countries, including DRC Congolese, Angolans and Rwandans.

EQUATORIAL GUINEA (29 June)

The country does not produce a significant quantity of cereals. The staple foods are sweet potatoes, cassava and plantains. It imports on average 12 000 tonnes of wheat and 8 000 tonnes of rice.

In recent years inflation in Equatorial Guinea has been higher than in other countries of the Franc Zone, due to rapidly rising domestic demand since the oil boom began in the mid-1990s. Annual inflation is forecast to slow down in 2006/07, to 5.9 percent, from an estimated 6.1 percent in 2005, according to the Economist Intelligence Unit.

GABON (29 June)

The contribution of agriculture to GDP is about 8 percent, reflecting the dominance of the oil sector. The country imports commercially the bulk of its cereal requirement. The main foodcrops are cassava and plantains but some maize is also produced (around 31 000 tonnes).

Imports of cereals in 2006, mainly wheat and rice, are estimated at some 165 000 tonnes. Economic growth which has trended downwards in recent years, due to declining oil production, has recovered significantly in 2005 and is expected to remain relatively high, helped by high oil prices.

SAO TOME AND PRINCIPE (29 June)

The staple food crops are roots, plantains and tubers. Annual imports of cereals are estimated at some 14 000 tonnes. In 2003 agriculture accounted for 19 percent of GDP and about 86 percent of exports, but the structure of the economy will be significantly transformed by oil production which is expected to begin by 2010.

EASTERN AFRICA

BURUNDI (2 JULY 2006)

In Burundi, rains have been above average and plentiful since March continuing well into May for crops in the current 2006B main season. This follows a drier than usual 2006A season. Planting of crops such as maize, sorghum and beans, normally carried out in February-March was, however, delayed due to late start of the season. Heavy rains in early May also caused some flooding in the northwestern province of Bubanza. Nevertheless, prospects for 2006B season are considered favourable with an anticipated slight improvement over last year's total annual production. Results of the Joint FAO/WFP/Government crop and food assessment are expected shortly. Earlier 2006A cereal production and total food production (in cereal equivalent) was estimated to be reduced by 10 percent and 11 percent respectively compared to 2005A harvests. Crops were severely stressed due to a prolonged dry spell during October-November. The secondary season (A) normally accounts for 40 percent of the annual output of cereals.

Cereal import requirements for 2006 are estimated at about 116 000 tonnes, higher than 96 000 tonnes in 2005, reflecting the drought-affected output of 2006A season earlier this year. In 2005 food aid amounted to little more than half of the total imports. According to the national Early Warning System, in Bujumbura, market prices of rice and maize in May 2006 were about 12 and 8 percent above the levels a year ago, respectively. Price of cassava was 120 percent higher due to reduced harvest of this crop. Food price inflation is creeping up as reflected by the cost of a food basket which has increased by 31 percent in May 2006 compared to the same time last year. This year-on-year monthly increase was only 24 percent in April 2006. WFP distributed 1 197 tonnes of relief food to 158 893 beneficiaries.

ERITREA (14 June)

Planting of the 2006 cereal and pulse crops has just started. Recent rains have helped land preparation and water replenishment in some areas of the country but more rains are required. The spring (short) rains from March to May, which are beneficial for early land preparation and regeneration of pastures, have been inadequate in many areas. The final estimate of the 2005 cereal crop has not yet been made available. However, tentative estimates indicate a crop of about 150 000 tonnes, about 41 percent above the average of the previous five years. On average, Eritrea produces only a fraction of its total food requirements and largely depends on imports.

In the last several years the food situation deteriorated sharply as a result of consecutive poor harvests and lingering effects of war with neighbouring Ethiopia, compounded by serious macro-economic imbalances. High cereal prices continue to impact on purchasing power and food security of large numbers of people. For instance, average monthly price of the staple red sorghum in Keren has increased from 850 Nakfa in April 2005 to 1 200 Nakfa in April 2006 while in Barentu it increased from 718 Nakfa in April 2005 to 866 Nakfa in April 2006.

ETHIOPIA (14 June)

Beneficial rains from March have improved prospects for the 2006 secondary belg grain crops, about to be harvested, in several parts of the country. The belg crop accounts for some 10 percent of national grain production but in some areas it provides most of the annual grain production. The good rains have also helped land preparations for the main meher season crops and the replenishment of pasture and water in parts of the lowland areas of the south and south-east and in the pastoral Afar region, which suffered severe drought in 2005 and earlier in 2006. However, inadequate rainfall in the drought affected south-eastern parts of the country is a cause for concern.

Despite improved rains, the food situation of some 2.6 million people, mainly pastoralists in southern and eastern parts of Ethiopia, remains precarious due to earlier drought conditions. The Ethiopian Productive Safety Nets Programme (PSNP), which plans to reach 7.2 million beneficiaries in 2006, is well underway. After initial delays in resource transfers, many of the PSNP districts have received food or cash for the first two months. While food resources for the third month payment have been dispatched to PSNP districts, preparations are being made to channel financial resources through the banking system to those PSNP districts handling cash transfers to beneficiaries. According to a recent report released by the Federal Food Security Co-ordination Bureau, in many districts grain prices have continued to increase progressively and this has negatively affected the purchasing capacity of safety nets cash beneficiaries.

KENYA (14 June)

The overall food supply situation has improved considerably following favourable short rains harvests and improved pasture in several central and western pastoral districts. However, most pastoral districts in the east and north have yet to recover with only scanty rainfall received so far. Preliminary forecast by the Ministry of Agriculture put the 2006 long-rains season maize crop, for harvest from August, at about 2.7 million tonnes, well above average. Pastoral areas, which suffered one of the worst droughts in recent years, have also benefited from recent rainfall. The Arid Lands and Resource Management Project (ALRMP) has reported that April rains have markedly regenerated vegetation, especially browse, and improved water availability in most pastoral districts. Consequently, livestock prices have started to increase in Mandera, Wajir, Garissa, Marsabit, Kajiado and Ljra districts.

Despite the improved rainfall conditions, significant food insecurity persists, particularly in pastoral areas. The impact of successive poor seasons has left a large number of households highly vulnerable and unable to cope with high losses of livestock and livelihood options. Rapid assessments in several districts have shown pockets where food insecurity has increased since the assessments in January 2006. Accordingly, the total number of emergency food aid beneficiaries currently stands at about 3.6 million people. The Current Emergency Operation (EMOP) is expected to run through February 2007 and will be revised as the food security situation of drought-affected household changes.

RWANDA (2 JULY 2006)

In Rwanda, although the rains started later than usual in the second dekad of February 2006 they continued well into May, resulting in normal to above normal cumulative precipitation for the 2006B season. Notwithstanding the delayed planting, prospects for 2006B harvest (May-July) are considered favourable. This follows the poor performance of 2006A secondary season crops harvested from November 2005 to January 2006. FAO's early forecast for 2006 annual cereal production at 421 000 tonnes indicates a slight improvement over the output of 2005. Total cereal import requirement for 2006 is projected at 145 000 tonnes, reduced from the estimated 189 000 tonnes in 2005. In 2005 food aid accounted for some 12 percent, the rest was imported commercially.

Prices of staple food have been rising following the reduced production of the 2006A season. For example, wholesale maize price in Kigali steadily increased from a low of US$207/tonne in September 2005 to US$280/tonne on 13 April 2006 and further to US$320/tonne on 28 June 2006. Similarly bean prices have gone up from US$299 to US$365 but back down, due to arrival of the new harvest, to US$286/tonne during the same period. Rising prices in general have contributed to increased food insecurity in the country. Food security in the eastern pastoralist provinces of Umutara and Kibungo is also affected due to the recent outbreak of foot and mouth disease and subsequent total quarantine and ban on the sale of livestock and animal products.

SOMALIA (14 June)

Prospects for the 2006 main "gu" cereal crops, for harvest from August, are poor due to insufficient rains. This would lead to the third consecutive year of below average harvest. The rainy season is complete, with patchy results. Despite some heavy rains at the beginning of the season, large areas in Gedo, Bakol, and Hiran and parts of Bay, Lower Shabelle, Lower and Middle Juba, Galgadud, Toghdeer, Sool, Sanaag and Bari received below normal rains. The gu is the main rainy season (April‼ June) and supports about 70 to 80 percent of the annual cereal production in normal years.

Despite favourable rains in several drought-affected regions of Somalia, the food security situation of about 2.1 million drought-affected people remains precarious. Prices of staple foods in most of the reference markets in the south are still much higher than normal for this time of year. Humanitarian access problems coupled with impassable roads (due to rains) will likely hamper food aid deliveries during the coming weeks, thereby increasing vulnerability among food aid-dependant, drought-affected communities. In the northeast and parts of the central region, rains received so far are below-normal leading to serious water shortages. Recent escalation of conflict in Mogadishu has resulted in civilian casualties and displacement.

SUDAN (14 June)

The recently harvested wheat crop is estimated to reach 416 000 tonnes, about 20 percent above the previous five years' average. The 2005/06 total cereal production, estimated at about 5.5 million tonnes, is about 24 percent above the average of the last five years.

Cereal prices, which rose sharply to record levels in the summer months of 2005, have begun to ease as of September 2005. Currently prices are stable but remain at above average levels. The high price levels are attributed, among other things, to the very low levels of cereal stocks at the beginning of the current marketing year in November; the relatively higher costs of production (mainly wage rates), and expectations of substantial purchases from domestic markets by the Strategic Reserve Corporation (SRC) and by humanitarian agencies.

At the household level, the impact of more than two decades of war and chronic poverty in southern Sudan and current conflict in Darfur have left millions in a precarious food security situation and abysmal living conditions compromising their ability to access available food. The recent signing of the Darfur Peace Agreement has actually increased tensions in several parts of Darfur. Following the signing of the Comprehensive Peace Agreement (CPA) in January 2005, hundreds of thousands have started returning to southern and transitional areas with more expected to return in the coming months, further straining food and other resources in host communities

TANZANIA, UNITED REPUBLIC OF (14 June)

Harvesting of the 2006/07 main season maize crop is well underway in uni-modal central and western regions, while in the grain-basket of the southern highlands, harvesting is expected to start in August. Seasonal rains were delayed by up to 40 days across much of Tanzania, limiting the crop growth cycle and affecting harvest prospects. Earlier, the 2005/06 short vuli season crops in the bi-modal rainfall northern areas have failed due to severe drought conditions. Normally the vuli crop accounts for about 30 percent of annual production of the bimodal areas.

Cereal prices remain at record highs as domestic supply tightened in Tanzania; a situation projected to pertain through to the second quarter of 2006. A vulnerability assessment carried out by the Food Security Information Team (FSIT), earlier in the year has revealed a widespread prevalence of severe food shortages affecting an estimated 3.76 million people. Food assistance requirements were estimated at about 100 000 tonnes.

UGANDA (14 June)

Prospects for the 2006 main season cereal crops have generally improved due to well distributed rainfall. The food situation in northern Uganda (Gulu, Kitgum, Pader and parts of Lira districts) remains precarious due to continued security concerns. Over 1.45 million displaced persons depend mainly on WFP food assistance for survival. The threat of abduction by the LRA continues to limit cultivation, even though the number of attacks is on the decline. Non-food interventions have been interrupted in some of the more insecure areas. WFP's pipeline shortfall through December 2006 is 64 000 tonnes. Grain prices in Uganda remain high, limiting the scope for local purchase of cereals. Regional demand for maize also remains high.

SOUTHERN AFRICA

ANGOLA (1 JULY 2006)

Preliminary results of the FAO/WFP Crop and Food Supply Assessment Mission conducted from 2 to 20 May 2006 point to maize production of about 579 000 tonnes, some 20 percent drop from the last year's bumper harvest. Similarly, total cereal production is also forecast to be reduced to 749 000 tonnes. The erratic rains and long dry spells particularly affected the central and southwestern provinces, which include some of the main maize and cereal growing areas of the country. Food production and food security in general in the northern areas, where cassava and other root crops are grown, were found to be satisfactory. Heavy rains received during March and April throughout the country helped improve pasture and water availability for livestock but were too late for much of the cereal production. Following the peace accord and settlement of returnees, the area under

cereal crops has increased by almost 50 percent since 2001. Thus, the total cereal production in 2006 is estimated to be above average of the past five years.

As result of the reduced harvest, total cereal import requirements for the 2006/07 marketing year (April/March) are estimated at 843 000 tonnes, some 30 percent higher than the year before. Last year due to a bumper maize harvest, only 646 000 tonnes of total cereals (mainly wheat and rice) were imported, all except 44 000 tonnes were of food aid on commercial basis. Monthly average maize retail prices were substantially lower compared to the corresponding monthly prices in 2004. However, according to FEWSNet, at about 30 US cents/kg, the national monthly average retail price in the FEWSNet monitored markets in August 2005 in Angola was the highest among the monitored markets in the region. Food security problems arise due to poor road conditions and underdeveloped marketing systems and due to currently rising maize prices. In spite of the economic boom in the country primarily due to high oil prices, food security for the vulnerable population is of concern. Consequently, WFP and other NGOs distributed food aid to over 500 000 people under the school feeding and some general food distribution programs in April. The vulnerability analysis by the Mission has established a figure of about 800 000 people as food insecure and requiring about 58 000 tonnes of cereals as food aid.

BOTSWANA (2 JULY 2006)

In Botswana, widespread and favourable rains throughout the country since the beginning of the season in November 2005 have resulted in an estimated harvest of about 12 000 tonnes of maize and 32 000 tonnes of other cereals. This is a significant improvement over the drought-stricken crop of last year. Pasture conditions during the agricultural season were also reported to be good helping livestock raising which forms an important part of agriculture through out the country, and particularly in the central and southern areas. A fresh outbreak of foot and mouth disease, however, has jeopardized the country's beef exports, hurting the livestock industry. Due to the current good harvest, total cereal imports for 2006/07 marketing year (April/March) are estimated to fall to about 240 000 tonnes. These represent about 70 percent of total utilization needs and are expected to be covered through commercial imports.

LESOTHO (2 JULY 2006)

Preliminary forecast for the 2005/06 main cereal harvest indicates a slight improvement in maize production (at 95 000 tonnes) and a slight decrease in other cereals compared to the previous year's production levels. This season, cumulative rainfall was well above average, with rains continuing into April and leaving high residual moisture for winter crops. Frost damage on crops had some negative impact on yields, especially for late-planted crops. The cereal import requirements for the new marketing year 2006/07, which started in April, are almost the same as the last year's imports estimated at little over 200 000 tonnes. All of these were commercial imports except for about 15 000 tonnes of food aid of mainly maize and sorghum. Earlier, WFP assisted about 250 000 to 300 000 most food insecure people. However, in June owing to the start of the new harvest, this number was reduced to just 52 000, mainly people affected by HIV/AIDS and other diseases.

MADAGASCAR (1 JULY 2006)

In Madagascar, in spite of some delayed start of the season, excessive rains and long dry spells in different parts of the island, the 2005/06 agricultural season harvest of paddy rice, the country's principal staple crop, is expected to show (at about 3.5 million tonnes) a small improvement over last year's record output. Maize harvest is, however, likely to be affected by lack of rainfall especially in the south. The average price of local rice has gradually come down from over 1 100 Ariary/kg on 25 July 2005 to under 800 currently. The price of imported rice has fallen even more, partly due to the appreciation of the Malagasy currency against the US dollar. Relatively high rice prices during the planting time (November-December 2005) in the country probably had a positive impact on area planted to paddy. Total cereal imports for the 2006/07 marketing year (April/March) are forecast at 300 000 tonnes, slightly reduced from the estimated imports the year before. Most of the imports (nearly 90 percent) in 2005/06 were commercial imports. The price of vanilla has fallen from about US$180/kg in 2004 to US$50 in early 2005 adversely affecting incomes of farmers in the northern part of the island. Reportedly, more than 70 percent of Madagascar's 17 million people live below the poverty line of US$1/day, and an increase in child malnutrition has been reported by a recent survey in the south-eastern parts of the country. However, Madagascar's

entry into the Southern African Development Community (SADC) in August 2005 is expected to improve trade and boost economic prospects.

MALAWI (1 JULY 2006)

In Malawi, the recent official estimate puts the 2006 maize harvest at 2.35 million tonnes, an increase of about 90 percent over the devastated harvest during the drought year of 2005. The principal reasons for this bumper harvest were good weather and the Government's subsidized fertilizer distribution program. Similar gains are also forecast for other cereals. In some parts, dry spells during early to mid-December and late February were experienced, causing localized reduction in household food production. As a result of a bumper harvest at the national level, the country is expected to turn from a net importer of maize over the last several years to a net exporter in 2006/07 with an estimated potential surplus of about 100 000 tonnes in addition to a stock build-up to about 200 000 tonnes. The actual commercial imports of cereals in 2005/06 have been estimated at 289 000 tonnes, consisting of mainly wheat, maize and rice. It is worth noting, however, that during first two months of this new year (April and May 2006), about 16 000 tonnes of maize have been imported through cross-border trade into food deficit southern Malawi from surplus producing northern provinces of Mozambique (FEWS-Net). This amount is about the same as in April and May 2005. For total cereals, Malawi would still likely be a net importer due to insufficient domestic production of wheat.

During the 2005/06 marketing year (April/March) food insecurity had been a serious concern throughout the country especially during the peak hunger period which now is eased with the arrival of new harvest. During the year, the national average price of maize, the main staple crop, increased from about 15 Kwacha/kg in at harvest time in April-May 2005 to a high of 50 Kwacha in February 2006. Since then prices have been coming down. For example, from April to May maize prices decreased from 36 Kwacha to 31 Kwacha in Mzuzu in the north, from 36 to 21 Kwacha in Lilongwe in the center and from 25 to 20 Kwacha in Liwonde in the south.

MAURITIUS (1 JULY 2006)

Total cereal import requirements for 2006 in Mauritius are expected to remain stable at about 310 000 to 320 000 tonnes. Domestic production of cereals amounts to less than 1 percent of total cereal needs; consequently the country imports commercially virtually its entire cereal consumption requirements. Sugarcane is grown on about 90 percent of the cultivated land area and accounts for 25 percent of the country's export earnings. The anticipated loss of preferential access to US and European markets by 2007 is expected to have negative consequences for sugar and textiles, the two important exports of the country. For the last three years Mauritius has been experiencing a relatively high unemployment rate (in excess of 10 percent) according to the Economist Intelligence Unit, nearly double the average of 5.9 percent for 2000.

MOZAMBIQUE (2 JULY 2006)

In Mozambique, the latest estimates by the Ministry of Agriculture put maize and total cereal production at record levels of 1.5 million tonnes and 2.1 million tonnes, respectively. This represents an increase of 11 and 10 percent, respectively, from the corresponding levels of the year before. Cassava production, concentrated mainly in the north, is also estimated to increase by about 14 percent improving household food security in general. There was favourable precipitation well into April throughout the country, making prospects favourable for the main season crops. In March torrential rains caused seasonal but serious flooding in the central Sofala province and destroyed some 4 000 hectares of crops. Localized flooding was also reported in the northern province of Nampula.

The country's Northern zone is estimated to produce maize surplus of 431 000 tonnes while the central and southern zones are estimated to have a combined deficit of 332 000 tonnes during 2006/07 marketing year (April/March). Total cereal import requirements (gross) for 2006/07 are estimated at 780 000 tonnes, reduced from 920 000 tonnes from the year before. Most of the imports in 2005/06 were commercial transactions except for about 94 000 tonnes of food aid. Exports of maize through cross border trade from northern Mozambique mainly into Malawi from April 2005 to March 2006 accounted for a little over 71 000 tonnes, somewhat less than the year before. In spite of the good harvest in Malawi this year, cross border exports from Mozambique

have continued more or less at the same pace during April and May of 2006. However, new requirements for all traders in Mozambique to obtain export licences are expected to hinder small trader activities. Reflecting the poor harvest of last year in the south and high export demand in the north from neighbouring food deficit Malawi, the average price of maize steadily climbed to a peak of 13 000 Metical/kg in March 2006 in Maputo from 7 000 Metical from the beginning of the year, and remained substantially higher than for the same period a year ago. However, with a beginning harvest, the price of maize in Maputo came down to 7 000 Metical/kg. Since the beginning of April, maize prices in general have declined significantly bringing relief to thousands of food insecure people but affecting farmers' incomes adversely.

NAMIBIA (1 JULY 2006)

In Namibia, as a result of good rains since the beginning of the season in late-November 2005 throughout the country, substantial improvement in maize production is foreseen. Official estimates put the main maize harvest for 2006 at 52 000 tonnes, some 30 percent above last year's and 60 percent above the previous five-year average. Total cereal production is forecast at 110 000 tonnes, about 10 percent above 2005 level, although some seasonal flood damage was observed in the Caprivi Region in the northeast. In spite of improved production, the total cereal import requirement is estimated to rise slightly to 164 000 tonnes of cereals, expecting certain stock adjustments to normal level. Commercial imports are expected to cover most of the food deficit. In spite of the high per capita income (per capita GDP at the Purchasing Power Parity for 2003 was US$6 180 as per the UNDP's Human Development Report 2005), extreme poverty and food insecurity persist in the country.

SOUTH AFRICA (2 JULY 2006)

In South Africa, the fifth estimates of the total area planted under maize and sorghum for 2005/06 agricultural season show an alarming decline of about 40 and 60 percent to new levels of 2.0 million and 33 520 hectares, respectively, for the two crops. The official early forecast of 2006 maize production is placed at 6.3 million tonnes, down from 11.7 million tonnes in 2005. This change seems to be a result of choices made by farmers faced with very low or unprofitable prices at planting times and very high (4 million tonnes) estimated closing stocks of maize for the 2005/06 marketing year (May/April). A small part of this decline was compensated by other cash crops such as soybeans, dry beans, sunflower seeds and groundnuts. A farmer survey of planting intentions puts area under winter wheat this year at 793 500 hectares as opposed to 805 000 hectares a year before partly reflecting the declining international price of wheat from a peak of almost Rand 2 400/tonne in May 2002 to about Rand 1 600 in May 2006.

The final estimate for the 2005/06 production of winter wheat shows a 13 percent increase, to 1.9 million tonnes, over the drought-affected 2004/05 output. This level of production, however, is still below the normal level of about 2 million tonnes per year.

The SAFEX futures price of white maize steadily rose since July 2005 from about Rand 700/tonne to Rand1 199/tonne in May 2006. July 2006 futures price of maize is nearly double (at Rand1 340/tonne) that of price in July a year ago. The futures price data show a steady climb in maize prices to Rand1 396 by December 2006, partly due to the reduction in the current harvest and partly due to weak Rand against US dollar.

SWAZILAND (1 JULY 2006)

In Swaziland, the official 2006 season harvest indicates maize production at 67 000 tonnes representing a 12 percent improvement over the drought-affected output of 2005. Rainfall this season had been generally favourable. The sorghum crop has a good potential, but too few farmers grow this drought-resistant crop. Other cereals are generally produced in insignificant quantities in Swaziland. However, field reports indicate that some progress is being made in crop diversification, notably the inclusion of legumes and root crops - cassava and sweet potatoes.

With the arrival of the new harvest, food availability and food security in general have improved. However, chronic food insecurity persists throughout the country owing to declining income-earning opportunities and remittances, high levels of unemployment, and the impact of HIV/AIDS. With a self-sufficiency rate for cereals of only about one-third, Swazi population is mostly

dependent on food imports. By the end of the marketing year 2005/06 in April, about 122 000 tonnes of cereals were imported. Of these, 15 000 tonnes are shown as food aid. Total cereal import requirements in 2006/07 are expected to remain more or less stable at this level.

ZAMBIA (1 JULY 2006)

In Zambia, as result of above average rainfall, a significant improvement in cereal production is forecast for this year. The official estimates released in May 2006, put maize and total cereal productions at record levels of 1.42 and 1.60 million tonnes, respectively. These represent increases in excess of 50 percent over the drought-affected harvest of the previous year. Besides the good weather, the government's subsidized fertilizer distribution program targeted to 125 000 small farmers was a contributing factor. Consequently, Zambia is estimated to have a potentially exportable surplus of about 200 000 tonnes assuming nearly as much stock build-up. Total cereal import requirements for the marketing year 2006/07 (May/April) are estimated at about 100 000 tonnes, less than half of the actual imports of the previous year.

With the arrival of the new harvest, the average price of maize has dipped below the price level last year and consequently food availability and food security in general have improved. An average price of white maize on 30 June 2006 in Lusaka was Kwacha 31 000/50kg bag down from about 58 000 three months before (CHC Commodities Ltd). In April 2006 the National Food Reserve Agency (FRA) announced the official buying price of Kwacha 38 000 (US$232/tonne) valid for the period from 25 May to the end of September 2006, with a procurement target of about 185 000 tonnes. This price level is soon expected to set the floor in most markets when fully implemented.

ZIMBABWE (1 JULY 2006)

In Zimbabwe, harvesting of maize and other main season crops is completed. The overall cereal harvest looks favourable compared to last year's drought-affected output of about 550 000 tonnes for maize. However, it is unlikely to reach the official forecast of 1.8 million tonnes. FAO's current forecast for 2006 points to maize production of 1.1 million tonnes and total cereals of about 1.5 million tonnes. This represents nearly twice as much as last year's harvest which was one of the worst in the country's history. The FAO estimate of maize production compares favourably to the estimate of 1.16 million tonnes by the European Space Agency's, Global Monitoring for Food Security (GMFS) Project, which was based on partial satellite imagery and the estimated area under maize cultivation at 1.31 million hectares. In addition to maize, crops such as millet and sorghum, which normally receive no fertilizer applications in Zimbabwe, have reportedly done very well this year.

The preliminary estimate of import requirement for 2006/07 marketing year (April/March) for the total Zimbabwean population of 11.75 million, is put at about 300 000 tonnes of maize and 407 000 tonnes of total cereals, about 25 and 30 percent of the levels of the previous year, respectively. Commercial import capacity in Zimbabwe is limited due to the continuing downward trends in export earnings from main crops such as tobacco and cotton, although this is offset by rising metal export prices as well as official and unofficial remittances from the large number of Zimbabweans (estimated at over 3 million) living outside the country.

In April 2006, the Grain Marketing Board (GMB) announced a new maize purchase price of Zimbabwe dollar 31.3 million/tonne, up from Zimbabwe dollar 2.2 million before. This may have helped farmers' revenues from the new harvest but would have very little impact on the total supply of maize in the country for the current marketing year. During the 2005/06 marketing year most of the estimated total cereal import requirement of 1.37 million tonnes, seems to have been met by commercial imports (about 1.15 million tonnes) and international food aid (about 220 000 tonnes). Nevertheless, access to food in many areas was severely hampered by sustained price increases and lack of food grains on markets. According to the country's Central Statistics Office (CSO), annual inflation in May 2006 had reached an unprecedented level of 1 193.5 percent, driven partly by liberal money supply policies resulting in higher prices for housing, food, fuel and other necessities. In Harare, maize prices were Zimbabwe dollar 34 300/kg in mid-March, up from Zimbabwe dollar 20 000 at the beginning of the year. With the arrival of new harvest, prices in April came down on most markets. This has also improved food security throughout the country barring pockets of crop failures. WFP and Cooperating Partners distributed about 54 000 tonnes of food to about 5.6 million people in April. For May and June its distributions were reduced to 7 000

tonnes to about 1 million beneficiaries including school children and other most vulnerable people. Additional information on food production, the food security situation and other aspects of vulnerability is expected from the Zimbabwe Vulnerability Analysis Committee (VAC), once it finalizes the results of its main annual assessment.

ASIA

BANGLADESH (29 June)

Harvesting of the 2006 wheat crop, a small contributor to the country's food supply, has been completed. Provisionally, the output is estimated at 900 000 tonnes, 17 percent below last year's level due to dry weather and lack of fertilizers. Harvesting of the 2006 Boro (spring) rice, accounting for more than 50 per cent of the total annual rice production, was completed in May. A good harvest was obtained despite the fact that the crop was affected by drought and shortages of power supply in some regions.

More than 10 000 people in northern areas have been homeless and about 1 million have been cut-off by the floods in mid-June. Some 40 000 hectares, mostly rice, were damaged.

CAMBODIA (29 June)

There are two seasons of paddy production in the country: wet season and dry season, with the wet season production accounting for some 80 percent of the total. The main current agricultural activities include the completion of the harvesting of the dry season paddy crops and planting/transplanting of main wet season rice due for harvest from November.

The 2005 rice output was officially estimated at 6 million tonnes, 44 percent higher than the averaged of the previous year, reflecting higher plantings and yield. With this increase in production, the country is expected to have enough rice for domestic consumption and some 300 000 tonnes of exportable surplus in 2006.

CHINA (29 June)

In China (mainland), harvesting of 2006 early rice crop, accounting for some 20 percent of total rice production, is underway. The area planted is reportedly larger than last year, but the yield is expected to be lower due to bad weather and disease. The aggregate paddy output in 2006 is tentatively forecast at 186 million tonnes, some 3 percent above last year's good harvest, reflecting Government's production support policies.

Harvesting of the 2006 winter wheat crop is complete, with output estimated at 95 million tonnes, some 2.8 million tonnes above last year's good crop and the highest in the last 5 years, mainly reflecting favourable weather conditions in the major producing regions. The 2006 output of spring wheat, at the development stage, is forecast at 5.1 million tonnes, assuming the normal weather conditions. Sowing of 2006 coarse grain crops, mainly maize, is complete in the major producing regions and soil moisture remained generally favourable to germinate despite dry conditions in some areas.

With the continuing recovery in production of the past three years, China is expected to be able to balance imports and exports of cereals in 2006/07 (July/June). However, the country needs to import more than 25 million tonnes of soybeans in 2006/07 (July/June) to meet growing domestic consumption.

Several provinces in Western and North China have experienced a prolonged drought. The most affected provinces include Yunnan, Gansu, Ningxia, Inner Mongolia, Hebei, HelongJiang. The drought will have a serious impact on food security for vulnerable groups, particularly in affected mountain areas, where there are few alternative sources of income. Millions of people in the south, on the other hand, have been affected by floods.

INDIA (29 June)

Harvesting of the 2006 wheat crop is almost complete. Sowing of the main Kharif coarse grains and rice, oilseeds and groundnuts crops, for harvest from September, has begun. The production in this season is critically dependent on the rains of the southwest monsoon.

The government has revised downward the estimate of the 2005 wheat output from 72 million tonnes to 68.6 million tonnes. In order to replenish stocks, the 2006/07 wheat imports are expected to reach 4 million tonnes, resulting in the country changing its trade position from a large net exporter of wheat to a large net importer. The government has recently allowed duty free imports of wheat by private traders and flour millers until the next harvest in April 2007.

Assuming normal rainfall during the Kharif season, the output of coarse grains is expected to be 33.6 million tonnes, some one million tonnes below last year's level, but still above the average of the previous five years. Output of the 2006 milled rice crop is tentatively forecast at some 90 million tonnes, similar to last year's level.

INDONESIA (29 June)

Most of the areas normally under the secondary rice crop have been planted. The 2006 aggregate paddy production is officially forecast at 54.3, the third consecutive good crop, reflecting the ample irrigation water supplies. The 2006 maize crop, recently gathered, is estimated at some 12.4 million tonnes, same level as last year. The overall food supply situation in Indonesia is satisfactory. Imports of wheat, which is not produced in the country, are forecast to remain stable at around 4.8 million tonnes in 2006/07 (April/March). Maize imports are expected to reach 500 000 tonnes.

Some 100 000 farming households in the Yogyakarta and central Jaya districts have reportedly lost their assets and source of income, as a result of 27 May 2006 earthquake with a magnitude of 6.3 on the Richter scale. Thousands of casualties have been reported and 127 000 houses were completely destroyed, with additional 450 000 damaged, making approximately 1.17 million people homeless.

JAPAN (29 June)

Planting of the 2006 main rice crop, for harvest in October-November is underway. Paddy production is tentatively forecast at about 10.6 million tonnes. The rice import in 2007 is expected at some 800 000 tonnes. As part of its rice policy reforms, the government has announced the elimination of controls on production by 2008.

The import of wheat and coarse grain in 2006/07 (July/June) is forecast to remain steady at 5.6 million tonnes and 19.7 million tonnes respectively.

KOREA, DEMOCRATIC PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF (29 June)

Harvesting of the 2006 winter wheat and coarse grains is almost complete and the main season crops are at development stage. Following the Government's agricultural production support policy in recent years, the country harvested a good cereal crop in 2005. Paddy production was estimated at 2.5 million tonnes, a 10-year record, as a result of favourable weather, improved irrigation facilities in the main Cereal Bowl region and increased application of fertilizer provided through international assistance. The 2006 paddy output is tentatively forecast at 2.6 million tonnes.

In spite of the relatively overall good production, chronic food insecurity is likely to remain widespread. The Government stopped all humanitarian aid by the United Nations on 31 December 2005 and decided to only accept assistance addressing medium-and long-term needs. Under a Protracted Relief and Recovery Operation (PRRO), approved in February 2006, WFP is providing 150 000 tonnes of various commodities to 1.9 million children over two years.

KOREA, REPUBLIC OF (29 June)

Planting of the 2006 paddy crop, the most important cereal crop grown in the country, is underway. In 2005, the country produced some 4.8 million tonnes of milled rice, down from 5 million tonnes in the previous year as a result of trade liberalization policy reforms. Aggregate cereal import in 2005/06 (November/October) is estimated at about 12.8 million tonnes including nearly 3.8 million tonnes of wheat, 8.4 million tonnes of maize and 333 000 tonnes of rice.

LAO PEOPLE'S DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC (29 June)

Rice, the country's main crop, is grown during two seasons. The major wet season rice is planted in June-July and harvested in October-November. The aggregate paddy production in 2006 is forecast at 2.5 million tonnes, 150 000 tonnes above drought-affected last year. With the expected higher rice production, the country can virtually maintain its food sufficiency in 2006. However, Laos is one of the poorest and least developed countries in the world. Some 30 percent of population is estimated to live below the national poverty line. Even in normal agricultural years, one third of the population, predominantly in upland areas, experiences rice deficit for four months and need food assistance.

MALAYSIA (29 June)

Planting of the irrigated secondary paddy crop, which normally accounts for more than 40 percent of total production, has been completed under favourable rainfall conditions. Harvesting of the main paddy crop, planted from August to November last year, finished in April. The 2006 paddy output is provisionally estimated at 2.2 million tonnes. Rice import in 2006/07 is forecast at some 760 000 tonnes, representing some 35 percent of domestic consumption. Wheat is not produced in Malaysia and maize production is insignificant. The 2006/07 import requirement is forecast at some 1.4 million tonnes of wheat and 2.4 million tonnes of maize.

MALDIVES (April 2006)

Maldives was the smallest country hit by the tsunami on 26 December 2004, but it suffered the sharpest blow in relative terms. After more than nine months, the country is facing severe budget and economic problems, as a result of both tsunami and rising oil prices. The tourism industry accounts for a large percentage of the country's GDP. Despite repairs in a number of resorts damaged by the tsunami, tourist numbers in the first nine months of 2005 dropped by about 30 percent from the same period of the previous year, but have now reportedly returned to normal. Fisheries and agriculture were also damaged by the tsunami. FAO has been providing assistance in the building of boats and fishing gear and supplied farmers with the required agricultural inputs and tools (fertilizer, vegetable seeds, cuttings and seedlings, and hand tools).

MONGOLIA (29 June)

Planting of the 2006 wheat crop, virtually the only cereal produced in the country, is about to start and harvesting will take place in September. The output of this crop is critically dependent on the rainfall situation during the growing season and assuming a normal weather condition, is provisionally forecast at 127 000 tonnes. This will cover only about 33 percent of domestic wheat utilization, leaving an estimated import requirement for 2006/07 of 256 000 tonnes. 2005 wheat output was estimated at some 75 000 tonnes, down some 44 percent from the level of 2004 and 46 percent from the average of the previous five years, as a result of severe drought in the main producing regions. Dzud and drought conditions in Mongolia in last several years have substantially depleted household coping mechanisms and have resulted in an increase in poverty.

MYANMAR (29 June)

Harvesting of the 2006 dry season rice crop, accounting for some 15 percent of annual production, is complete and output was close to average. Planting of the main season rice crop started with the timely arrival of the southwest monsoon rains in early May.

The forecast increase reflects another slight increase in areas, continuing the upward trend of the past few years. Assuming a normal monsoon season, the aggregate 2006 paddy output is expected to be slightly higher than the previous year's already record crop of 24.5 million tonnes.

Reflecting steady increases in paddy production in the past few years, the overall cereal supply situation is satisfactory in the country with a net export of cereals forecast at some 280 000 tonnes in 2005/06.

NEPAL (29 June)

Planting of the main season paddy crop is underway and will continue until August. The output of paddy in 2006 is provisionally forecast at 4.3 million tonnes, slightly higher than last year's production and the five-year average. Harvesting of the 2006 wheat crop is complete and the output is estimated at 1.3 million tonnes, 140 000 below that of last year due to drought. Coarse grain production, mostly maize, is forecast at 1.9 million tonnes, marginally above average. With these levels of production, the total cereal import requirement in 2006/07 is expected at 140 000 tonnes.

Nepal is one of the most disaster-prone countries in the world. The armed conflict and the unstable political situation in the country also continue to disrupt the food security and livelihood of thousands of families. The World Food Program is distributing emergency food to more than 225 000 people in the central and western parts of the country, affected by severe drought during the 2005/06 winter.

PAKISTAN (29 June)

Harvesting of the 2006 wheat crop is complete in the main wheat-growing provinces. Output is officially estimated at a record level of 21.7 million tonnes, reflecting increased availability of irrigation water and increased application of fertilizers and herbicides. However, despite the larger domestic crop, the country is expected to import some 400 000 tonnes of wheat in 2006/07 to maintain strategic reserves and meet demand of the growing population.

Planting of the 2006 paddy and coarse grain crop is underway. Paddy production is expected to be less than last year's record, reflecting less water availability in major reservoirs. The 13 districts in Balochistan and 5 districts in Sindh are reportedly severely affected by drought. Water levels in major reservoirs in Sindh are particularly low after winter rain was reportedly 40 percent less than normal and a snow fall was up to 25 percent less than normal. Government is planning to distribute wheat at 50 percent subsidized rates to the affected people.

Some 11 000 people in 30 villages around Muzaffarabad city in Pakistan-controlled Kashmir have been proved to be evacuated due to landslide harzard but the operation has been delayed by early monsoon rains. This area is part of the area affected by the massive October 2005 earthquake, which claimed over 75 000 lives and made over 3.5 million people homeless. WFP is preparing a food distribution plan for over 21 000 beneficiaries.

PHILIPPINES (29 June)

Harvesting of the secondary rice and maize crops is underway. The country's paddy production in the first half of 2006 is officially estimated at a record 6.52 million tonnes, some 8 percent above output during the same period in 2005 and 2004 reflecting favourable weather and expanded (irrigated) areas. Similarly, a bumper maize harvest is expected this year, at a record 5.9 million tonnes, compared to 5.25 million tonnes last year and the five-year average of 4.83 million tonnes.

With this expected larger harvest, the import requirement of rice in 2006/07 is forecast at 1.45 million tonnes, down from last year's 1.8 million tonnes, while that of maize at 50 000 tonnes, down from last year's 167 000 tonnes. Wheat is not produced in the country and imports are estimated at 2.75 million tonnes in 2006/07.

About 450 people have been reportedly evacuated from around Mount Bulusan after the volcano emitted an explosion in Sorsogon province on 18 June. The farming towns of Casiguran and Juban were reportedly affected. Exports are warning of a threat of a major eruption, which could threaten about 50 000 people in six towns in the province.

The long-standing internal conflict since the late 1970s has created a precarious food situation and very dire living conditions in the affected areas in Mindanao. Uncertainty about long-term prospects has deterred foreign investment, stunted rural development and disrupted agricultural marketing and food production.

SRI LANKA (29 June)

The main 2006 Maha rice crop, planted in October-November 2005, has been harvested. Output is officially estimated at some 2.13 million tonnes, 120 000 tonnes above last year's production, reflecting favourable weather condition. Assuming normal growing conditions for the Yala crop to be harvested in August-September, total national paddy production in 2006 is provisionally forecast at 3.3 million tonnes. Total cereal import requirements in 2006/07 (July-June) are forecast at about 1.2 million tonnes.

Tsunami recovery and rehabilitation efforts continue in Sri Lanka. The World Food Programme will extend its operations through 2007 for some 347 000 people affected by the disaster, with a focus on long-term recovery rather than free food distributions.

THAILAND (29 June)

Total output of paddy in 2006 is tentatively estimated at a record 30 million tonnes, 285 000 tonnes above the previous record achieved last year, reflecting good weather and attractive intervention prices. The maize output in 2006 is estimated at 4.25 million tonnes, which would be enough to meet domestic consumption requirement in 2006/07.

Thailand maintained its status as the world's largest rice exporter in 2005/06, with exports estimated at 7.3 million tonnes, compared to 7.5 million tonnes in the previous year.

TIMOR-LESTE, DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF (29 June)

Harvesting of the maize crop, one of the main staples of the country, has been completed while that of rice has just started. Aggregate output of cereals (milled equivalent) in 2006 is expected to recover from the drought-affected level last year and is tentatively forecast at 129 000 tonnes. Some 60 000 tonnes food (mainly rice) import requirement in 2006/07 is forecast. Inadequate agricultural infrastructures and poor soil quality in most parts of Timor-Leste continue to hinder development of the agricultural sector.

Timor-Leste is the world's newest and among the poorest nations in the world, with nearly 40 percent of the population living below the poverty line and some 50-70 percent of the rural households suffer from chronic food insecurity. All regions in the country are often in a food deficit situation, but food insecurity is more prevalent in upland rural areas, especially between November and March as determined by the timing of the production season.

The food security situation of many urban residents remains significantly affected by recent civil unrest; more than 145 000 people, some 15 percent of the country's total population, are reported to be displaced and in need of food and other humanitarian assistance.

VIET NAM (29 June)

Harvesting of the winter/spring rice crop is underway. Output of paddy in 2006 is expected to increase significantly reflecting increased plantings and higher yield. Viet Nam, the world's second largest rice exporter after Thailand, exported around 5.2 million tonnes of rice in 2005 and similar amount is expected for 2006.

NEAR EAST

AFGHANISTAN (28 June)

Cereal harvesting is well underway and aggregate output in 2006 is forecast at just over 5 million tonnes, some 222 000 tonnes down on last year's bumper harvest but still above average despite significant water stress in much of the country owing to below average precipitation, particularly in the areas south and west of the Hindu Kush mountains. The forecast includes 4.1 million tonnes of wheat, 310 000 tonnes of rice, 300 000 tonnes of barley and 310 000 tonnes of maize. The aggregate cereal import requirement for the 2006/07 (July/June) marketing year is forecast at about 440 000 tonnes, including 80 000 tonnes in food aid. The total includes 300 000 tonnes of wheat and 140 000 tonnes of rice.

WFP under the current Protracted Relief and Recovery Operation (PRRO) is targeting a total of 4.8 million vulnerable people. The main recovery activities are food for work, food for education, irrigation, forestry and infrastructure rehabilitation. The relief operations, nearly a third of the total, include targeted assistance to vulnerable households, internally displaced, returning refugees and long-term patients.

CYPRUS (14 June)

The 2006 aggregate output of wheat and barley now being harvested, is forecast at 116 000 tonnes, slightly below last year but about average. Domestic cereal production normally covers less than one-third of total domestic requirements.

Imports of cereals in 2006/07 (May/April), mainly wheat and barley, are forecast at about 645 000 tonnes, similar to the previous year.

IRAN, ISLAMIC REPUBLIC OF (29 June)

Wheat and barley are the main crops cultivated during the winter period in the Islamic Republic of Iran. Harvesting of barley was completed in March, while harvesting of wheat has just commenced. Tentatively, 2006 output is forecast at 14.5 million tonnes of wheat, and 2.9 million tonnes of barley, unchanged from last year's record level.

The country has gathered bumper wheat crops in the last several years and can has reached self-sufficient in wheat. The production increases are mainly due to Government's support measures (guaranteed procurement prices, supply of higher yielding seeds, improvement machinery services, increase of fertilizer use, enhancement of water systems and pest management practices) coupled with favourable weather conditions.

IRAQ (14 June)

Despite recent precipitation in the region, prospects for the 2006 winter grain crops in Iraq, for harvest in from next May, are uncertain due to the effect of on-going conflict. The 2005 total cereal production is estimated at 3.1 million tonnes. Heavy rains in northern Iraq in early February have caused overflowing rivers, leading to extensive flooding in the surrounding areas. The most affected governorates include Erbil, Sallahaddin, Kirkuk, Dyiala and Missan. The flooding has been compounded by the natural melting of the ice in the mountainous northern part of the country. The Iraqi Red Crescent Society (IRCS) have been supporting to the most vulnerable people affected by the floods.

The overall food security situation continues to be adversely affected by conflict and security problems. Humanitarian agencies indicate that there are more than one million Internally-displaced people in the country.

ISRAEL (14 June)

Harvesting of the 2006 wheat crop is almost complete and output is tentatively estimated at about 110 000 tonnes, 35 percent below the average of the past five years, as a result of drought in the main producing areas in the south. The drought was particularly severe in a large area of the Negev region. The rest of the country benefited from favourable growing conditions for the wheat.

Imports of cereals in 2006/07 (July/June) are forecast at some 2.9 million tonnes.

JORDAN (14 June)

Aggregate output of wheat and barley in 2006 is tentatively estimated at 93 000 tonnes, above the average of the past five year. However, domestic cereal production normally meets only a small proportion of consumption requirements the rest being covered by imports. Imports of wheat in 2006/07 (July/June) are forecast at 900 000 tonnes, slightly higher than last year. Coarse grain imports are forecast at 1 million tonnes.

LEBANON (14 June)

Output of the 2006 wheat and barley crops, now being harvested, is expected to be about 139 000 tonnes, virtually the same as in 2005.

Imports of cereals - mainly wheat - in 2006/07 (July/June) are forecast at some 800 000 tonnes, slightly above the previous year's level.

SAUDI ARABIA (14 June)

Aggregate output of wheat and barley in 2006 is forecast at 2.5 million tonnes, similar to the crop last year. Imports of coarse grains (mainly barley and maize) in 2006/07 (July/June) are forecast at 8 million tonnes, slightly up from 2005/06.

SYRIA (14 June)

The 2006 cereal crop is now being harvested. Output of wheat is forecast at 5.2 million tonnes, about 10 percent above the average of the previous five years. However, barley is forecast to be below average at 700 000 tonnes.

Imports of wheat and rice in 2006/07 (July/June) are forecast at a total of 450 000 tonnes, nearly the same as in the previous year, whilst barley imports are forecast at 650 000 tonnes, similar to previous year's level.

TURKEY (14 June)

Output of the 2006 wheat crop is provisionally estimated at 21 million tonnes compared to 20 million tonnes in 2005. Good winter rains and snow cover helped boost yields.

Wheat imports in 2006/07 (July/June) are forecast at 200 000 tonnes, similar to the estimate for the previous year. Maize imports are forecast at about 50 000 tonnes. Exports of wheat and barley in the year ending June 2006 are expected to increase slightly.

YEMEN (14 June)

Good rainfall has generally favoured the main 2006 sorghum and millet crops, for harvest from October. Cereal production in 2006 is estimated at about 534 000 tonnes, slighter below the level of the previous year and similar to the average of the previous five years.

Imports of cereals in 2006/07 (July/June) - mainly wheat - are estimated at about 2.9 million tonnes, an increase of some 18 percent compared with 2005/06.

ASIAN CIS

ARMENIA (27 June)

Cereal harvesting has began and the aggregate harvest is forecast at about 409 000 tonnes, 31 000 tonnes up on last year's average crop. This total includes some 325 000 tonnes of wheat and 72 000 tonnes of barley. The potato crop, the second most important staple after wheat, has fared

well despite the relatively cold winter. The aggregate cereal import requirement for the 2006/07 (July/June) marketing year is estimated at about 150 000 tonnes, including 25 000 tonnes in food aid.

AZERBAIJAN (27 June)

Cereal harvesting has begun in some parts of the country and the aggregate harvest is forecast at a record 2.2 million tonnes this year. This includes some 1.8 million tonnes of wheat, 192 000 tonnes of barley and 150 000 tonnes of maize. Annual cereal utilization is normally in excess of 3 million tonnes and the country usually imports about 1 million tonnes of cereals, mainly food quality wheat to meet food consumption requirements. For the 2006/07 (July/June) marketing year the cereal import requirement is estimated at about 942 000 tonnes, which includes 880 000 tonnes of wheat and 35 000 tonnes of maize.

GEORGIA (27 June)

Cereal harvesting has began in some parts of the country and aggregate harvest is forecast at about 693 000 tonnes, slightly up on last year's above average crop. This year's harvest includes some 197 000 tonnes of wheat, 420 000 tonnes of maize and 65 000 tonnes of barley. Georgia has an annual cereal utilization of nearly 1.5 million tonnes of cereals to meet normal consumption requirements, thus the aggregate cereal import during the 2006/07 (July/June) marketing year is forecast at about 795 000 tonnes, including 100 000 tonnes in food aid requirements. Most of the cereal imports are food quality wheat.

WFP has been provided targeted food aid to some 220 000 people under Protracted Relief and Recovery Operation (PRRO), which comprises of relief and recovery components, mainly food distribution to vulnerable groups and Food-for-Work programmes.

KAZAKHSTAN (27 June)

Cereal harvesting is about to begin in Kazakhstan and output is forecast to reach about 14 million tonnes slightly up on last year's average harvest. The total includes some 11.5 million tonnes of wheat, 1.7 million tonnes of barley, 210 000 tonnes of rice and 300 000 tonnes of maize.

Cereal exports during the 2006/07 (July/June) marketing year are forecast at about 4.5 million tonnes, including 4.1 million tonnes of wheat and 246 000 tonnes of barley. Cereal exports during the 2005/06 marketing year totalled 4.14 million tonnes, mainly wheat.

THE KYRGYZ REPUBLIC (27 June)

Cereal harvesting has begun and the aggregate harvest is forecast at a record 1.78 million tonnes, some 30 000 tonnes up on the bumper harvest collected last year. This includes 1.08 million tonnes of wheat, 450 000 tonnes of maize, 210 000 tonnes of barley and 16 000 tonnes of rice. Above-average precipitation and sufficient water supplied for irrigation were the main contributing factors to this year's record harvest. The aggregate cereal import requirement for the 2006/07 (July/June) marketing year is estimated at about 115 000 tonnes, including 5 000 tonnes in food aid. This includes 105 000 tonnes of wheat and 10 000 tonnes of rice.

TAJIKISTAN (27 June)

Cereal harvesting is well underway and the aggregate output in 2006 is forecast at a record 974 000 tonnes, slightly higher than the bumper crop harvested in 2005. This total includes some 750 000 tonnes of wheat, 112 000 tonnes of maize and 55 000 tonnes of rice. The good harvest is mainly a result of above-average precipitation and ample water availability in the rivers and reservoirs that feed the extensive irrigation systems in the country. The aggregate cereal import requirement for the 2006/07 (July/June) marketing year is estimated at about 286 000 tonnes including 50 000 tonnes in food aid requirement.

TURKMENISTAN (27 June)

Cereal harvesting is in full progress and latest estimates point to an aggregate output of just over 3 million tonnes, similar to last year's bumper crop. This aggregate includes some 2.9 million tonnes of wheat, about 110 000 tonnes of rice and 50 000 tonnes of barley. The Government intends to export some 120 000 tonnes of wheat and import some 40 000 tonnes of high quality food wheat as well as 4 000 tonnes of rice during the 2006/07 (July/June) marketing year.

UZBEKISTAN (27 June)

Cereal harvesting has begun and an aggregate harvest of about 5.5 million tonnes is expected, which is nearly 200 000 tonnes down from 2005. This aggregate includes some 5.14 million tonnes of wheat, 140 000 tonnes of maize, 180 000 tonnes of rice and 90 000 tonnes of barley. The Government plans to export some 500 000 tonnes of wheat, and import 189 000 tonnes of high quality food wheat and 120 000 tonnes of rice during the 2006/07 (July/June) marketing year.

LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN

CENTRAL AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN

COSTA RICA (26 June)

Moderate to heavy rains, especially on the Pacific coast, have increased soil moisture for planting of 2006/07 first season cereal and bean crops. Planting intentions indicate areas under paddy and white maize crops similar to previous year at 58 000 and 8 000 hectares, respectively. The country relies on imports to meet most of the cereal consumption and import requirements in marketing year 2006/07 (July/June) are forecast at about 570 000 tonnes of maize, 220 000 tonnes of wheat and 120 000 of rice.

CUBA (26 June)

Moderate to heavy rains have increased soil moisture favouring planting operations of 2006 spring/summer maize and paddy crops, especially in eastern and central provinces that have been affected by a long-term dry weather period. The harvest of 2006 sugar cane crop is virtually completed and raw sugar output is early forecast at 1.2 million tonnes, below last year's negative record of 1.3 million tonnes. This poor result is essentially due to the progressive reduction of acreage and milling capacity that started in 2003 as a consequence of unattractive sugar international prices. Wheat and rice imports in marketing year 2006/07 (July/June) are forecast at 950 000 tonnes and 750 000 tonnes, respectively, very close to previous year's level.

DOMINICAN REPUBLIC (23 June)

Despite some localized floods, first rains of the 2006 main season have been particularly beneficial in the north, the northwest and the eastern parts of the country. Planting of 2006 main maize crop is well advanced and the area planted is estimated slightly below average. Harvesting of 2006 main paddy crop is underway in principal producing North-eastern and North-western departments. Assuming adequate soil moisture throughout the season, early forecast indicates that 2006 aggregate paddy output may reach 700 000 tonnes, about 10 percent above previous year good result. In marketing year 2006/07 (July/June), imports of wheat and maize (mostly yellow maize for the animal feed industry) are expected to be 330 000 tonnes and 900 000 tonnes respectively, similar to those of previous years.

EL SALVADOR (20 June)

Abundant precipitations in western areas have characterized an early start of the rainy season at the end of April. Planting of the 2006/07 first (main) season maize, paddy and bean crops is underway and planting intentions indicate areas under maize, the main cereal, and sorghum slightly above the average of the past 5 years. Early official forecasts point to a 2006 aggregate grains production about 5 percent higher than the level of the previous year as a result of the distribution of high yield seeds and good weather forecasts for the growing season. Imports of

maize in marketing year 2006/07 (July/June) are early forecast lower than in 2005/06 at 380 000 tonnes of maize, but those of wheat are expected to increase to 250 000 tonnes. Food assistance continues to be delivered by the international community to the most food insecure communities, especially to children living in rural communities in the departments of Ahuachapán, Chalatenango, Cabañas and Morazán.

GUATEMALA (20 June 2006)

Planting of the 2006 first season coarse grain crops, principally maize, started with the arrival of first seasonal rains in May and the area is forecast at some 586 000 hectares. Heavy precipitations since the beginning of the season are reported in various parts of the country, particularly in the highly vulnerable highlands that were affected by Hurricane Stan in early October 2005, with damages to urban infrastructure and localized losses of early planted maize crop. On average, production covers approximately 50 percent of domestic demand of maize and import requirements in marketing year 2006/07 (July/June) are forecast at about 645 000 tonnes, slightly above the level of previous year. Wheat production is negligible, while its consumption is steadily increasing, setting import requirements for 2006/07 marketing year at about 470 000 tonnes. Food assistance is still provided to some rural communities in departments of San Marcos, Santa Rosa and Chimaltenango which were affected by the intense 2005 hurricane season.

HAITI (21 June)

Prospects for the 2006 main season cereal crops, to be harvested from July, are below average. Late arrival of seasonal rains in the southern departments of Grand'Anse, South and South-East caused a substantial delay in planting operations of the 2006 main cereal and bean crops while dry weather conditions are also affecting food crops in the North-West department. Aggregate 2006 maize production is early forecast at 180 000 tonnes, slightly below last five years average. Paddy production continues its declining trend due to the reduction in planted areas and yields as a consequence of the insufficient maintenance of the irrigation infrastructures in the main growing Artibonite Department. Paddy production in 2006 is expected at low 94 000 tonnes. Import requirements for marketing year 2006/07 (July/June) are anticipated at about 270 000 tonnes of wheat and 320 000 tonnes of rice. The overall security situation in the country has improved since the presidential election in February. The international community continues to provide food aid to more vulnerable groups, especially to pregnant and lactating women and children under 2 years in the North, West and North-East departments as well as in the capital city.

HONDURAS (19 June)

The start of the rainy season has been characterized by abundant and continuous precipitations that caused landslides in some hilly areas around the capital city. Planting of 2006 main season cereal and bean crops just started and early forecast points to an average area planted under maize of about 334 000 hectares. Assuming normal weather conditions, production is tentatively forecast at 510 000 tonnes. Paddy production is expected to reach 21 000 tonnes the same level of the last two years. Wheat and maize import requirements in marketing year 2006/07 (July/June) are forecast at about 240 000 tonnes and 300 000 tonnes respectively, very similar to the previous year. Food assistance continues to be provided by the international community, in particular to families in municipalities with over 50 percent of chronic malnutrition.

MEXICO (22 June)

Under favourable dry weather conditions, in north-western growing areas, harvesting of 2006 winter wheat and maize crops, which were planted in late 2005, is well advanced. Early official forecasts point to a wheat crop production, of 3.1 million tonnes, similar to the good level of the previous year, as a result of adequate availability of irrigation water in the main producing states of Sonora and Baja California. The 2006 winter maize production is provisionally estimated at about 5.6 million tonnes, slightly more than in the same season of the previous year. Abundant precipitations from the southern plateau to the Yucatan Peninsula have increased soil moisture for planting of the 2006 summer rain-fed maize and sorghum crops which started at the beginning of May and is progressing at a higher pace than last year that was affected by a late arrival of the rainy season. Sowing of 2006 paddy is also underway and planting intentions point to an average area of 61 000 hectares. Maize imports in marketing year 2006/07 (July/June) are early forecast at

about 7 million tonnes, very similar to previous year's high level due to the expansion of the demand of the animal feed industry. Imports of wheat and sorghum are forecast at about 3.7 and 3.6 million tonnes respectively.

NICARAGUA (23 June)

Moderate to heavy rainfall have characterized the start of the rainy season, favouring planting operations of 2006 main season cereal and bean crops. Harvesting of the small 2005 third apante season maize crop was completed and the aggregate 2005 maize crop output is estimated at about 555 000 tonnes. This result is well above the 444 000 tonnes obtained in 2004 when the crop was affected by a prolonged dry period. Import requirements in marketing year 2006/07 (July/June) are forecast at 130 000 tonnes of wheat, 65 000 tonnes of maize and 125 000 tonnes of rice. Food assistance continues to be provided by the international community to the most vulnerable groups in Central and Northern Atlantic Regions, particularly to pregnant and lactating women and school children.

SOUTH AMERICA

ARGENTINA (20 June)

Harvesting of 2006 maize crop is practically completed and production is officially forecast at 14 million tonnes, very far from 2005 record crop of 19.5 million tonnes. This is the result of a reduction of about 10 percent in the area planted, especially in centre-north Buenos Aires and southern Santa Fe and Entre Rios provinces, due to land diversion to more profitable crops, as well as to lower yields following an extended dry period in December and January that in particular affected early planted crops. Reduced planting and yields have also affected the 2006 sorghum crop, harvesting of which is virtually completed; official forecasts indicate a negative record output of about 1.9 million tonnes. Harvest of 2006 paddy crop was completed by the end of May and output is expected to be similar to previous last two years' good results of around 1 million tonnes. Sowing of the 2006 winter wheat crop, to be harvested by the end of the year, started in May. Planting intentions point to 5.6 million hectares, an increase of about 8.5 percent compared to the previous year. However, these intentions may not materialize due to inadequate soil moisture especially in key producing areas of south-west Buenos Aires and south La Pampa. More rains are needed.

BOLIVIA (20 June)

Harvesting of 2006 summer cereal crops has been recently completed in the main producing Departments of Santa Cruz and Chuquisaca in the Valle and Llano regions. Planting of 2006 winter cereal crops, to be harvested from September, is underway under normal dry weather conditions. Domestic wheat production covers only about 20 percent of total utilization and wheat imports requirement in marketing year 2006/07 (July/June) are forecast at 400 000 tonnes as in the previous year. Food assistance continues to be provided by the international community to families affected by floods at the beginning of the year in the Santa Cruz, Beni, La Paz and Potosí departments.

BRAZIL (19 June)

Harvesting of 2006 main (summer) season maize crop is well advanced in Centre-South states and output is early forecast at 32 million tonnes, 18 percent higher than previous year's production that was seriously affected by dry weather conditions. Planting of second (winter) season maize crop is underway and the area is forecast at 3.3 million hectares, 11 percent more than in the previous year reflecting adequate soil moisture and land diversion from wheat (especially in Paraná state) due to low price expectations. Aggregate 2006 maize crop production is officially forecast above 42 million tonnes. Planting of the winter wheat crop has been completed in central and southern states where recent heavy rains have improved soil moisture for proper germination. The area planted is early forecast at low 1.9 million hectares, about 20 percent below the previous year's level. This sharp decrease is due to low profitability of wheat in the last years which has caused heavy indebtedness of farmers and lower use of fertilizers. Harvesting of 2006 paddy crop has been completed and production is preliminarily estimated at 11.7 million tonnes, well below the

record output of 13.2 million tonnes of last year as a result of a marked reduction in planted area (about 24 percent), in response to low domestic prices, only partially offset by good yields.

CHILE (21 June)

On 14 June, the Ministry of Agriculture declared emergency situation in Region IV, where more than 3 000 small farmers have been affected by a prolonged dry weather period that has caused damages to the livestock sector because of shortage of pastures. Harvesting of the 2006 maize crop is virtually completed and an above-average output of some 1.4 million is provisionally estimated. Harvesting of 2006 paddy crop has been recently completed and production is officially estimated at 160 000 tonnes, an increase of about 37 percent on the previous year's level that was seriously affected by low temperatures. Planting of 2006 winter wheat and barley crops is underway under generally favourable weather conditions. Import requirements for marketing year 2006/07 (July/June) are forecast at 1.2 million tonnes of maize (mostly yellow maize), 730 000 tonnes of wheat and 80 000 tonnes of rice.

COLOMBIA (22 June)

Planting of the 2006 first (main) maize crop has been completed in the main growing area of Caribbean departments of Cordoba, Cesar and Bolivar and the area planted is preliminary estimated to be similar to the good level of 2005. Harvesting of the 2006 irrigated paddy crops in the central department of Tolima and north-western department of Cordoba has been recently completed. Aggregate paddy output in 2006 is tentatively estimated at 2.6 million tonnes, slightly above last five years production. Food assistance from the international community continues to be provided in various parts of the country to the internally displaced population, victims of the civil strife which for long is affecting the country. While the country is expected to be self-sufficient in rice, wheat imports, in marketing year 2006/07, are forecast at average levels of 1.2 million tonnes, and those of maize are expected to reach a record level of 2.4 million tonnes, which reflects growing demand of the feed industry.

ECUADOR (23 June)

Harvesting of the 2006 winter maize crop, mostly yellow maize, is underway. The crop was affected by dry weather in late 2005 and early 2006 and, subsequently, by heavy rains. The 2006 aggregate maize crop production for 2006 is early estimated to be below average. The rain-fed paddy crop was also affected by dry weather conditions in December 2005 but timely distribution of seeds and fertilizers gave to farmers the opportunity to re-plant about 50 000 hectares. Assuming normal conditions for the summer 2006 paddy crop, to be harvested by the end of the year, early estimates point to a record aggregate 2006 paddy production of 1.2 million tonnes. This would result in exportable surplus for export of about 20 000 to 30 000 tonnes of paddy. Maize import requirements for 2006/07 marketing year (July/June) are forecast at average 400 000 tonnes, while imports of wheat are forecast at record 535 000 tonnes as a consequence of the increasing demand of the feed industry.

PERU (26 June)

Under favourable weather conditions, harvesting of 2006 paddy crop is well advanced and production is early forecast at about 1.2 million tonnes, approximately 11 percent below last year's record output. The bulk of the harvesting operations of 2006 maize crop is underway. Despite some reduction in plantings in the highlands, mainly white maize, due to inadequate soil moisture at the end of 2005, 2006 maize production (white and yellow maize) is provisionally forecast at 1.2 million tonnes, a level similar to last five years average. Harvesting of the 2006 wheat crop is underway, mainly in the southern highlands, where it is grown for direct local consumption. An above-average output of nearly 190 000 tonnes is tentatively forecast. Wheat and maize imports in marketing year 2006 (January/December) are forecast at about 1.5 and 1.25 million tonnes respectively, with a slight increase compared with the previous year due to increasing domestic demand.

URUGUAY (22 June)

Harvesting of 2006 maize crop has been recently completed and production is tentatively estimated at 190 000 tonnes, well below the good level of 250 000 tonnes obtained last year. This result mainly reflects dry weather conditions at the end of 2005 that affected early plantings at flowering stage, especially in some northern departments. Sowing of 2006 winter wheat crop has just started and, following expectations of good prospects for international prices, the area is officially forecast at a record level of 180 000 hectares. However, current dry weather conditions may result in a downward revision of this forecast. Planting of the 2007, scheduled to start next October, may also be negatively affected if the main irrigation reservoirs are not replenished on time.

VENEZUELA (27 June)

After a good start of the rainy season at the beginning of May, irregular precipitations in June have delayed planting operations of 2006 main summer maize crop in key producing areas of Portuguesa, Guarico and Barinas. Due to marketing problems experienced last year and the current reduced availability of fertilizers, it is possible that the area planted will not continue to grow as reported by official planting intentions, but it may remain close to the good level of 640 000 hectares of 2005. Harvesting of winter rice crop has been recently completed. The aggregate 2006 paddy production is provisionally estimated at 930 000 tonnes, about 4 percent less than the previous year's level as a result of a widespread invasion of rats in the main growing state of Guarico in January. The country is traditionally self-sufficient in rice, while it entirely relies on imports to satisfy the growing domestic consumption of wheat. For marketing year 2006/07 (July/June) wheat import requirements are forecast at high 1.6 million tonnes and those of maize (mostly yellow maize for the animal feed industry) at 450 000 tonnes.

NORTH AMERICA, EUROPE AND OCEANIA

NORTH AMERICA

CANADA (27 June)

Latest estimates from Statistics Canada, although still preliminary, indicate a 6 percent increase in the overall wheat area this year, a much larger increase than expected earlier, reflecting generally adequate moisture conditions and an improved price outlook during the planting period. All of the increase is seen in the non-Durum wheat area, which is estimated at about 8.7 million hectares, 16 percent above that of last year, while confirming earlier expectations, the Durum area is estimated to have shrunk to just 1.7 million hectares, about 26 percent down from 2005. However, assuming yields return closer to average following two years of above-average levels, which the seasonal conditions would currently point to, aggregate wheat output may decrease slightly from last year's level to about 26.3 million tonnes. For coarse grains, latest indications point to little change in the overall area but a switch to more oats and less barley compared to the previous year. With yields expected to return closer to average, as for wheat, the aggregate coarse grain output is forecast at 24.2 million tonnes, about 8 percent down from last year.

UNITED STATES (26 June)

In the USDA's June Crop Report, the 2006 winter wheat production forecast was reduced further from expectations in May to 34.4 million tonnes, which would 16 percent below the 2005 output, reflecting persisting dry conditions, which have characterized the 2005/06 season. The harvest was already underway in the southern states as of early June and progress was reported to be more rapid than normal because of the prevailing hot and dry conditions. Regarding spring wheat, planting was virtually complete by the end of May. The USDA crop area report at the end of June estimated the area planted at about 6.7 million hectares just marginally below last year's area. A sharp reduction in the Durum area was mostly offset by an increase in the plantings of other spring wheat. Based on latest indications, the country's aggregate wheat output is set to fall sharply this year because of the large drop to area and yield of the winter crop, and is currently forecast by FAO at 49.4 million tonnes. With regard to coarse grains, planting of the main crops was virtually complete by late June. The area of maize is estimated to be about 3 percent down on the previous year but the crop is reported to be developing satisfactorily. As of late June, the condition of the bulk of the maize area was rated from fair to excellent, similar to last year at the same time.

However, sorghum was fairing slightly less well with 20 percent of the crop rated as poor or very poor. Based on the early area indications, and assuming normal weather conditions prevail for the remainder of the season, aggregate 2006 coarse grains output in the United States is forecast at about 284 million tonnes, which would be 5 percent down from the previous year, but close to the average of the past five years. Of the total, maize would account for 268 million tonnes. The area sown to rice in 2006 is expected to have declined by about 12 percent from last year. The bulk of the crop had emerged by late June and its condition was mostly rated from good to excellent.

EUROPE

EU (26 June)

Total cereal production in the EU in 2006 is forecast at 269 million tonnes, which is 9 million tonnes higher than last year. The increase is mainly accounted for by France, Germany and Spain. Output of wheat is forecast to increase to 128.6 million tonnes, almost 4 percent up from last year's already above-average crop. In France, despite dry conditions at the beginning of the season, yields are expected to be higher than last year and, combined with an increased area, production is forecast to rise by about 5 percent to almost 39 million tonnes. In Germany, the wheat area has not changed significantly this year but despite an abnormally cold spring, which delayed crop development, higher yields are expected, and production is forecast to rise to 25 million tonnes, 5 percent up from 2005. Spain is also expected to harvest a larger wheat crop this year of about 6.2 million tonnes, which although somewhat down from earlier expectations, would still be well above last year's drought-stricken crop of just 3.8 million tonnes. Among the other major wheat producers, output is expected to change little in the United Kingdom, where forecast is to remain close to the five-year average at 14.7, but could drop again this year in Poland to about 8.3 million tonnes because of harsh winter conditions and a significant delay encountered with the spring wheat sowing campaign. Regarding coarse grains, the total EU output is forecast at 138.2 million tonnes, 4.6 million tonnes up from 2005. For barley, as for wheat, most of the increase is expected in France, Germany and Spain, partly due to increased areas and partly due to improved yields expected. The latter is most relevant in Spain where a significant recovery in yields of all cereals is expected after the severe drought-reduced levels last year. Maize production is not expected to change much in 2006. Slightly larger crops in France and Italy are likely to be offset by smaller harvests in Hungary and Germany.

ALBANIA (26 June)

Generally satisfactory weather conditions are reported for the season. Output of wheat, the main cereal crop, is expected to remain around last year's level and the average of the past few years at about 260 000 tonnes. This implies that imports of wheat would also remain close to last year's level at about 390 000 tonnes, in order to meet normal utilization requirements of around 650 000 tonnes.

BELARUS (27 June)

Prospects are good for cereal harvest this year despite harsh weather conditions last winter. The main winter cereal crops, barley and rye, are relatively resistant and winterkill was not as severe as initially thought. Cereal harvesting shall begin around the middle of July and the aggregate harvest is forecast at an about-average level of 5.8 million tonnes compared with just over 6 million tonnes in 2005. This aggregate includes 1 million tonnes of wheat, 1.8 million tonnes of barley, 1.6 million tones of rye and 625 000 tonnes of maize.

Aggregate cereal imports during the 2006/07 marketing year are forecast at about 700 000 tonnes, including 300 000 tonnes of wheat, 270 000 tonnes of maize and 110 000 tonnes of barley. Cereal exports in the same period are forecast at 100 000 tonnes, all of which rye.

BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA (28 June)

Prospects for the 2006 cereal harvest are generally satisfactory. While exceptionally cold winter temperatures damaged some winter crops, spring conditions were favourable for development of

these and the spring sown crops. Provided that late spring floods do not compromise a significant area of crops, the 2006 aggregate cereal output is forecast at just over 1 million tonnes similar to the harvest last year. This aggregate includes 180 000 tonnes of wheat, 750 000 tonnes of maize and 55 000 tonnes of barley. The cereal import requirement for the 2006/07 (July/June) marketing year is estimated at about 570 000 tonnes, including 40 000 tonnes in food aid. This includes some 400 000 tonnes of wheat, 150 000 tonnes of maize and 20 000 tonnes of barley.

BULGARIA (26 June)

Cereal production in 2006 is forecast to decline for the second consecutive year. The expected reduction largely reflects less production of wheat, the main cereal crop, after severe floods hampered sowing last autumn, resulting in a reduction in area. Even with above-average yields expected, reflecting ample moisture supplies this season, wheat output is only likely to reach about 3.1 million tonnes compared to last year's about-average crop of 3.5 million tonnes. The area sown to maize this spring is reported to have increased slightly but yields are not expected to match the bumper levels achieved last year and output may fall somewhat. Output of barley is also expected to drop after a reduction of area due to adverse planting conditions and relatively poor prices.

CROATIA (28 June)

Cereal harvesting in some parts of the country is about to begin and despite harsh winter weather, the aggregate output is forecast at 3.46 million tonnes, similar to the harvest last year. This aggregate includes 840 000 tonnes of wheat, 2.4 million tonnes of maize and 160 000 tonnes of barley. Total cereal exports during the 2006/07 (July/June) marketing year are forecast at about 270 000 tonnes of mainly maize and cereal imports in the same period are forecast at 112 000 tonnes.

MOLDOVA (27 June)

Cereal harvesting is scheduled to begin by mid-July and prospects are good after favourable weather in spring helped crops recover from the effect of a harsh winter. The aggregate cereal harvest is forecast at 2.4 million tonnes, some 120 000 tonnes down from the above-average output last year. This total includes some 830 000 tonnes of wheat, 1.3 million tonnes of maize and 260 000 tonnes of barley. Aggregate cereal exports for the 2006/07 (July/June) marketing year are forecast at 255 000 tonnes, some 93 000 tonnes down from the current (2005/06), year coming to an end. During the current year cereal exports have included some 100 000 tonnes of wheat, 150 000 tonnes of barley and 98 000 tonnes of maize.

ROMANIA (26 June)

Cereal production is tentatively forecast to fall in 2006, mostly on expectations of a smaller winter wheat crop. Inclement weather during the autumn sowing period led to area reductions, and harsh weather through the winter is expected to have had an adverse affect on yield potential. Moreover, several thousand hectares of wheat are reported to have been lost during severe flooding in the spring, although the extent of the flood damage to wheat crops is judged to have been much less than that which occurred in the previous year. Wheat output is tentatively forecast at 5.6 million tonnes, well down from last year's crop of 7.3 million tonnes. On the contrary, maize output may rise this year as ample water availability may have prompted an expansion of plantings and should support good yield prospects.

RUSSIAN FEDERATION (27 June)

Grain harvesting has already begun in some southern parts of the country, somewhat earlier than normal, following favourable weather conditions during late and spring and early summer. Although winter cereals were severely damaged by harsh winter conditions and insufficient snow cover, which compromised nearly 20 percent of the area planted with winter grains, prospects for this year's aggregate cereal harvest seem less bleak than previously expected. The improvement is attributed to replanting of some winterkill areas, and good spring crop performance. The aggregate cereal harvest in 2006 is now tentatively forecast at about 74.6 million tonnes, some 2 million tonnes down on the harvest last year, but not that far below the five year average. Wheat was the worst affected cereal crop, which with output forecast at 42.7 million tonnes, would be 5 million

tonnes down from last year's harvest. More resistant crops such as barley fared better and this year's barley crop is forecast at 18.5 million tonnes, nearly 3 million tonnes up on last year. The forecast aggregate output also includes some 3.1 million tonnes of rye, 3.4 million tonnes of maize and 5 million tonnes of oats.

Total cereal exports in the 2006/07 (July/June) marketing year are forecast at 8.2 million tonnes, including 6.6 million tonnes of wheat and 1.4 million tonnes of barley. Aggregate cereal exports during the current marketing year (2005/06) are estimated at about 12.5 million tonnes, which includes about 10.8 million tonnes of wheat and 1.7 million tonnes of barley.

Civil strife in Chechnya continues to disrupt social and economic activities. The conflict has displaced more than 300 000 people, 187 000 of whom are internally displaced, 30 000 live in Ingushetia and 9 000 live in Dagestan.

SERBIA AND MONTENEGRO (28 June)

Cereal harvesting is about to begin in some parts of the country and the aggregate harvest is forecast at about 8.2 million tonnes, similar to last year's output but below earlier expectations. Prospects deteriorated through the winter due to harsh weather that reportedly damaged more than 5 percent of the winter cereals. The forecast harvest includes 1.7 million tonnes of wheat, 5.9 million tonnes of maize and 400 000 tonnes of barley. Cereal exports during the 2006/07 (July/June) marketing year are forecast at about 405 000 tonnes and include 100 000 tonnes of wheat, 280 000 tonnes of maize and 25 000 tonnes of barley. Highly quality food wheat import for the same period is forecast at about 110 000 tonnes.

SLOVENIA (26 June)

According to the latest official estimates, the areas planted to all the major cereals have increased for the 2006 harvest. The area of wheat, the main crop grown, is estimated to be up by 6 percent at about 32 000 hectares. Favourable growing conditions so far point also to improved yields compared to 2005, and overall cereal output could increase by about 10 percent to some 580 000 tonnes, well above the average of the past five years.

FORMER YUGOSLAV REPUBLIC OF MACEDONIA (26 June)

Latest indications suggest a smaller cereal output (mostly wheat) in 2006 following a reduction in plantings. Despite satisfactory yield prospects reflecting generally favourable weather this season, wheat output may fall below average to about 300 000 tonnes from nearly 400 000 tonnes estimated for 2005. Barley output is also seen to drop to about 90 000 tonnes, from about 140 000 tonnes last year.

UKRAINE (27 June)

Cereal harvesting in parts of Ukraine has already begun and prospects are less pessimistic than previously thought. Harsh winter conditions had compromised significant areas planted with winter cereals, but favourable weather conditions in the spring allowed some replanting and replenished soil moisture improving yields. The aggregate cereal harvest is now forecast at about 33.8 million tonnes below last year but close to the five-year average. Wheat was the most affected by the harsh winter and output is forecast at about 12.5 million tonnes, 6.2 million tonnes down from 2005. The forecast harvest also includes some 11.2 million tonnes of barley (9 million tonnes in 2005) and 7.7 million tonnes of maize.

Aggregate cereal exports in 2006/07 (July/June) marketing year are forecast at just over 9 million tonnes, compared with 12.5 million tonnes in 2005/06. The forecast cereal exports during the coming marketing year includes 2.1 million tonnes of wheat, 4.2 million tonnes of barley and 2.7 million tonnes of maize.

OCEANIA

AUSTRALIA (26 June)

Australia is expecting a drier than average winter cropping season in 2006 and winter grain production is tentatively forecast to decline by 11 percent from last year's above-average crop. The planting season started late or was hampered in most states because of dry conditions. As a result, the area planted is estimated to have declined in all states with the exception of South Australia, and yields are also forecast to fall compared to the previous year, although may remain above or close to the five-year average. The June Crop Report released by The Australian Bureau of Agriculture and Resource Economics (ABARE) forecasts the 2006 wheat output at 22.8 million tonnes, about 9 percent down from 2005. Output of barley is also seen down, by about 14 percent at 8.5 million tonnes. The small summer grain harvest is virtually completed. Output of sorghum is estimated at about 2 million tonnes compared to almost 2.2 million tonnes in the previous year. After a promising start to the season, hot and dry conditions in early 2006 in the main producing areas of New South Wales and southern Queensland significantly reduced yield potential. By contrast, rice production, all of which is in New South Wales, is estimated to have more than tripled to over 1 million tonnes, reflecting higher irrigation water allocations and generally better growing conditions.

FAO/GIEWS Global Watch

21 July 2006

Food crisis in Lebanon

A humanitarian crisis unfolds as the conflict between Israel and political factions in Lebanon escalates. Food, fuel and medical supplies are disrupted, and large parts of the country's infrastructure lay in ruins. An estimated 500 000 Lebanese have already been displaced, and a further 200 000 are estimated to have fled into neighboring countries.

Protracted civil strife between 1975 and 1990 already had a devastating impact on economic and social development in all sectors. The economy had been stagnating, with low foreign investment, a worsening balance of payments and an external debt estimated at 165 percent of GDP.

The current conflict coincides with the harvesting season (June/July) of annual crops. Earlier this year, FAO's forecast of the 2006 total cereal output stood at about 145 000 tonnes, an average level. However, population displacements and rising insecurity are expected to disrupt harvesting and lead to lower production. Domestic cereal output usually covers only about 10 percent of consumption requirements, and the country depends heavily on imports for such essential food items as wheat, rice, sugar and milk powder. Imports of cereals -- mainly wheat -- in 2006/07 (July/June) are forecast at some 800 000 tonnes. However, damage to roads and bridges has almost completely disrupted the food supply chain. This, together with massive population displacements, is clearly an ingredient for a major food crisis.

global information and early warning system on food and agriculture

Somalia: Serious concern for food security prospects

----------25 July 2006----------

Prospects for the 2006 main "gu" cereal crops, for harvest from August, are poor due to insufficient rains; the rainy season is complete, with patchy results. This would lead to the third consecutive season of below average harvest. Despite some heavy rains at the beginning of the season, large areas in Gedo, Bakol, Hiran, Bay, Lower Shabelle, Lower and Middle Juba, Galgadud, Toghdeer, Sool, Sanaag and Bari received below normal rains (see map). The gu is the main rainy season (April–June) with about 70 to 80 percent of annual cereal production in normal years.

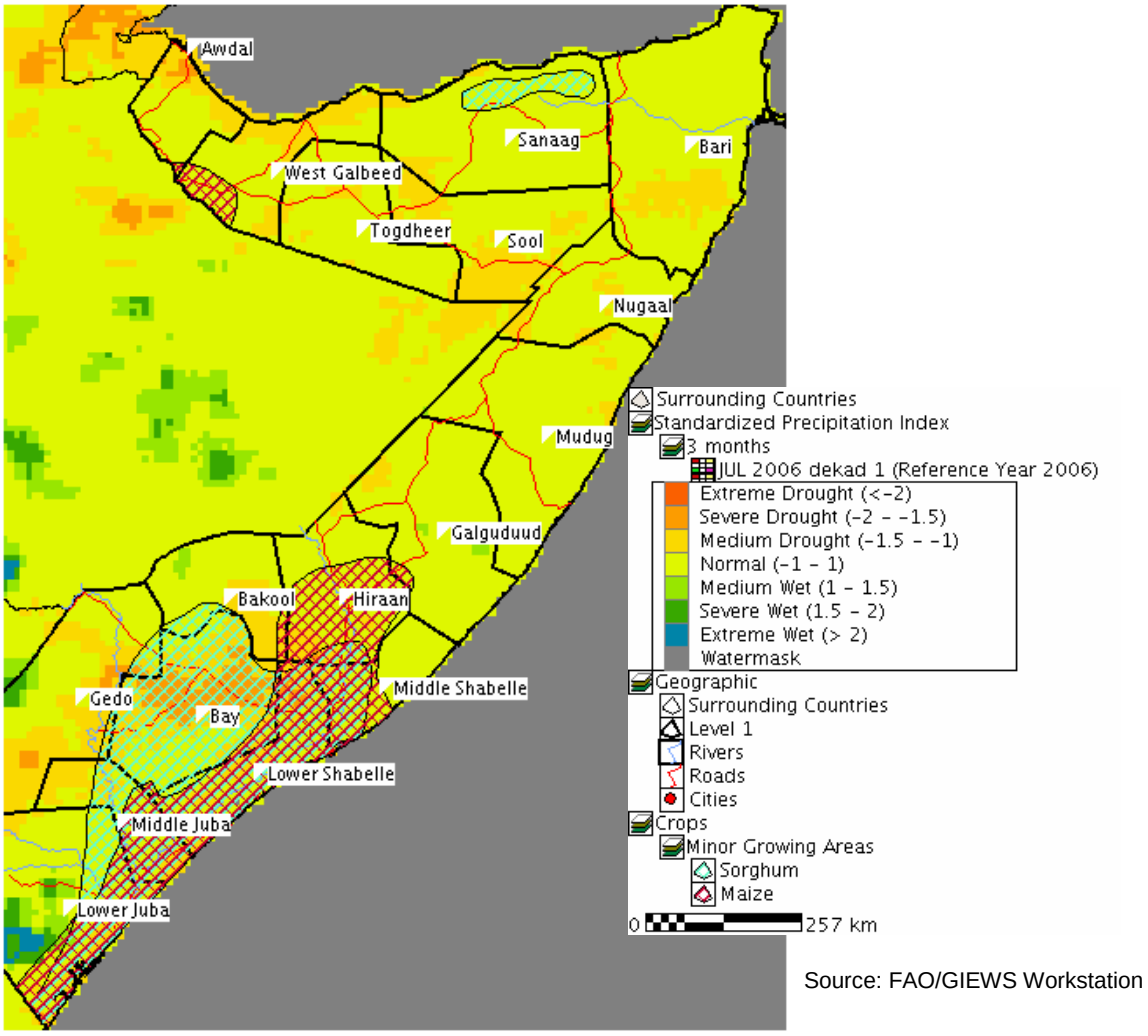
Despite favourable rains in several drought-affected regions of Somalia, the food security situation of about 2.1 million drought-affected people thus remains precarious. Extremely high levels of malnutrition persist in many areas including Gedo, Bakool and Juba Valley. Recent nutrition surveys of these areas found unacceptably high rates of acute malnutrition between 16.2 and 23.8 percent (GAM), with corresponding severe malnutrition rates of 3.7 to 4.2 percent (SAM).

Prices of staple foods in most of the southern reference markets are still much higher than normal for this time of year. Commodity prices have already increased by more than 30 percent since the end of last year, resulting in reduced food access by poor households.

Recent escalation of conflict in the country and the reported military build-up around Baidoa are cause for serious concern, having already resulted in civilian casualties and displacement. As the bulk of food crops are cultivated in southern Somalia, any disruption of harvest activities would worsen the ongoing humanitarian crisis.

See also: http://www.fsausomali.org/

FOOD AND AGRICULTURE ORGANIZATION OF THE UNITED NATIONS, ROME



Source: FAO/GIEWS Workstation

Following a below average rainfall in June and July, which raised some concern, prospects for developing crops have improved with above normal rains in August
The Normalized Difference Vegetation Index (NDVI) has also indicated profiles that are better than last year and similar to the last seven years average

MONTHLY TOTAL RAINFALL & MEAN TEMPERATURE OF DIFFERENT STATIONS DURING 2005 AND 2006

ZOBA DEBUBAWI KEYIH BAHRI (SOUTHERN RED SEA)

STATIONS	ELEMENT	YEAR	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC
ASSAB	MONTHLY RAINFALL	2006	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0					
	MAXIMUM TEMPERATURE	2006	27.7	28.3	29.9	33.1	38.0	38.3	41.0					
	MINIMUM TEMPERATURE	2006	23.8	24.0	24.5	26.8	28.0	30.5	31.5					
	MEAN RELATIVE HIMUDITY	2006												

STATIONS	ELEMENT	YEAR	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC
AFAMBO	MONTHLY RAINFALL	2005	0.0	0.0	0.0	70.0	24.0	0.0	8.1	39.4	35.1	0.0	0.0	0.0
	MONTHLY RAINFALL	2006	0.0	0.0	6.5	48.4	0.0	0.0	0.0					

ZOBA SEMIENAWI KEYIH BAHRI (NORTHERN RED SEA)

STATIONS	ELEMENT	YEAR	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC
AFABET	MONTHLY RAINFALL	2005	0.0	0.0	0.0	2.5	36.0	5.0	90.0	104.0	5.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
	MONTHLY RAINFALL	2006	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0					

STATIONS	ELEMENT	YEAR	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC
STATIONS	ELEMENT	YEAR	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC
NAKFA	MONTHLY RAINFALL	2005	0.0	0.0	14.5	29.3	39.0	25.0	128.0	256.0	43.0	30.0	0.0	0.0
	MONTHLY RAINFALL	2006	0.0	0.0	0.0	41.0	7.0	45.5						

STATIONS	ELEMENT	YEAR	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC
GHINDA	MONTHLY RAINFALL	2005	42.1	6.4	38.0	19.2	95.0	0.0	2.0	40.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
	MONTHLY RAINFALL	2006	12.7	4.5	6.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	15.5					

STATIONS	ELEMENT	YEAR	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC
MASSAWA	MONTHLY RAINFALL	2005	35.0	0.0	8.0	17.0	4.0	0.0	0.0	11.3	21.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
	MONTHLY RAINFALL	2006	7.0	0.0	10.0	7.0	0.0	0.0	2.0					
	MAXIMUM TEMPERATURE	2006	31.2	30.9	32.9	34.8	38.9	41.8	41.6					
	MINIMUM TEMPERATURE	2006	21.9	23.5	24.0	25.9	28.3	30.2	31.5					

ZOBA ANSEBA

STATIONS	ELEMENT	YEAR	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC
KEREN	MONTHLY RAINFALL	2005	0.0	0.0	3.5	2.5	0.0	108.8	84.8	118.9	51.7	0.0	0.0	0.0
	MONTHLY RAINFALL	2006	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	25.7	81.0	57.1					
	MAXIMUM TEMPERATURE	2006	27.3	29.8	29.1	29.23	29.04	29.5	28.5					
	MINIMUM TEMPERATURE	2006	13.7	12.2	12.7	13.5	13.3	12.4	12.1					

STATIONS	ELEMENT	YEAR	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC
Halhal	MONTHLY RAINFALL	2005	0.0	0.0	0.0	26.0	0.0	38.5	0.0	42.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
	MONTHLY RAINFALL	2006	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0					

ZOBA GASH-BARKA

STATIONS	ELEMENT	YEAR	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC
Agurdat	MONTHLY RAINFALL	2005	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	63.2	22.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
	MONTHLY RAINFALL	2006	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0					

STATIONS	ELEMENT	YEAR	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC
Barentu	MONTHLY RAINFALL	2005	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	28.2	100.2	14.0	68.7	6.4	0.0	0.0	0.0
	MONTHLY RAINFALL	2006	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0				26.0				

STATIONS	ELEMENT	YEAR	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC
Shambuko	MONTHLY RAINFALL	2005	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	119.8	95.7	163.1	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
	MONTHLY RAINFALL	2006	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	111.8				

STATIONS	ELEMENT	YEAR	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC
Tesenie	MONTHLY RAINFALL	2005	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	59.0	78.3	112.5	76.0	65.5	0.0	0.0	0.0
	MONTHLY RAINFALL	2006	0.0	0.0	3.0	12.0	0.0	0.0						

MONTHLY TOTAL RAINFALL & MEAN TEMPERATURE OF DIFFERENT STATIONS DURING 2005 AND 2006

ZOBA DEBUB

STATIONS	ELEMENT	YEAR	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC
Adiquala	MONTHLY RAINFALL	2005	0.0	0.0	26.0	21.5	13.7	39.2	157.2	86.1	51.1	0.0	0.0	0.0
	MONTHLY RAINFALL	2006	0.0	0.0	2.2	19.8	71.8	52.3	214.3					
Areza	MONTHLY RAINFALL	2005	0.0	0.0	12.0	12.0	0.0	34.0	76.5	103.6	51.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
	MONTHLY RAINFALL	2006	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	24.7	15.4	11.0					
Dbarua	MONTHLY RAINFALL	2005	0.0	0.0	31.5	13.2	13.6	0.0	78.8	113.1	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
	MONTHLY RAINFALL	2006	0.0	0.0	0.0	57.0	33.7	0.0	104.8					

STATIONS	ELEMENT	YEAR	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC
Mendefera	MONTHLY RAINFALL	2005	0.0	0.0	48.1	21.8	69.2	37.1	95.8	118.7	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
	MONTHLY RAINFALL	2006	0.0	0.0	0.0	22.5	39.3	31.0	200.7					
	MAXIMUM TEMPERATURE	2006	29.8	31.8	30.9	29.7	29.4	30.0	27.6					
	MINIMUM TEMPERATURE	2006	8.2	9.7	10.5	10.9	14.4	10.3	12.0					
Maidima	RAINFALL	2005	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	29.0	66.0	197.2	42.5	0.0	0.0	0.0
	RAINFALL	2006	0.0	0.0	1.0									
STATIONS	ELEMENT	YEAR	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC
Halhale	MONTHLY RAINFALL	2005	0.0	0.0	30.5	28.4	34.6	65.7	98.7	41.2	2.9	0.0	0.0	0.0
	MONTHLY RAINFALL	2006	0.0	0.0	22.0	83.1	54.1	68.0	109.7					
	MAXIMUM TEMPERATURE	2006	28.3	30.2	30.0	30.0	28.54	29.3	26.02					
	MINIMUM TEMPERATURE	2006	5.3	7.8	11.3	11.4	12.7	11.9	13.7					

STATIONS	ELEMENT	YEAR	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC
Adikeih	MONTHLY RAINFALL	2005	0.0	0.0	166.9	47.8	39.4	76.4	266.4	151.5	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
	MONTHLY RAINFALL	2006	0.0	0.0	9.0									
STATIONS	ELEMENT	YEAR	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC
Segeneti	MONTHLY RAINFALL	2005	0.0	0.0	11.8	23.0	54.2	35.0	142.6	49.0	19.5	0.0	0.0	0.0
	MONTHLY RAINFALL	2006	0.0	0.0	14.0	31.0	89.0	40.0	28.0					
STATIONS	ELEMENT	YEAR	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC

Dekemare	MONTHLY RAINFALL	2005	0.0	0.0	10.0	29.5	23.6	24.0	121.0	100.7	7.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
	MONTHLY RAINFALL	2006	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	39.0	0.0	40.0					

Senafe	MONTHLY RAINFALL	2005	0.0	0.0	31.5	98.5	6.0	0.0	156.0	98.0	5.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
	MONTHLY RAINFALL	2006	0.0	0.0	98.5	144.5	37.0	20.0	117.3					

MONTHLY TOTAL RAINFALL & MEAN TEMPERATURE OF DIFFERENT STATIONS DURING 2005 AND 2006

ZOBA MAEKEL

STATIONS	ELEMENT	YEAR	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC
Tseazega	MONTHLY RAINFALL	2005	0.0	0.0	18.0	31.1	7.0	38.0	68.0	94.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
	MONTHLY RAINFALL	2006	0.0	0.0	0.0	17.0	9.0	0.0	15.0					

STATIONS	ELEMENT	YEAR	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC
Adihawisha	MONTHLY RAINFALL	2005	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	25.2	0.0	121.7	134.9	10.5	0.0	0.0	0.0
	MONTHLY RAINFALL	2006	0.0	0.0	0.0	18.0	0.0	18.5	42.0					

STATIONS	ELEMENT	YEAR	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC
STATIONS	ELEMENT	YEAR	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC
ASMARA	MONTHLY RAINFALL	2005	0.0	0.0	49.8	39.2	26.7	22.6	211.0	154.6	6.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
	MONTHLY RAINFALL	2006	0.0	0.0	10.6	99.4	37.5	6.5	148.3					
	MAXIMUM TEMPERATURE	2006	23.8	25.1	25.3	25.2	24.1	25.5	22.0					
	MINIMUM TEMPERATURE	2006	5.4	6.9	7.4	9.3	10.9	11.1	13.0					
	MEAN RELATIVE HIMUDITY	2006	43	47	41	54	57	43	78					

as of **late September 2006**

AFRICA

NORTH AFRICA

ALGERIA (19 September)

Normal dry weather prevails. Harvesting of the 2006 cereal crops has been completed and aggregate cereal production is provisionally estimated at about 4 million tonnes, a significant recovery from the 2005 drought-affected crop levels of 3.49 million tonnes. About 2.7 million tonnes of wheat have been harvested, compared to 2.35 million tonnes the year before and the five-year average of 2.29 million tonnes. Barley output, used mainly for feed, also increased by 200 000 tonnes to about 1.3 million tonnes.

Wheat imports for the marketing year 2006/07 (July/June) are expected to decrease over last year's volume of 5.6 million tonnes to some 4.6 million tonnes, reflecting production increases. Maize imports should decrease by 100 000 tonnes from the 2 million tonnes volume imported in marketing year 2005/06 (July/June).

EGYPT (19 September)

Harvesting of the 2006 irrigated wheat crop was completed in July, and output has provisionally been estimated at 8.3 million tonnes, which compares to 8.18 million tonnes in 2005 and the five-year average of 7 million tonnes. The increase is due to the combination of a modest increase in wheat plantings in 2006 with respect to 2005 and the normal to abundant rains that have benefited the crops throughout the season.

Harvesting of the maize crop is well advanced, while that of paddy has recently started. The outlook is good and early forecasts for maize production stand at about an average 7 million tonnes, while paddy output should be a tentative 6.2 million tonnes, some 224 000 tonnes above the past five-year average.

Reflecting the anticipated good wheat output, wheat imports in marketing year 2006/07 (July/June) are expected to decrease from 7.6 million tonnes last year to about 7 million tonnes.

MOROCCO (19 September)

Wheat production in 2006 has been estimated at a record high of 6.3 million tonnes, 54 percent above the average of the past five years and twice the level of the 2005 drought-affected crop. Production of barley, the main coarse grain grown in the country, has also increased substantially from last year's 1.1 million tonnes to 2.5 million tonnes. The increase in production has been the result of the favourable rainfall pattern at planting and throughout the developing period. Government policy to encourage investment in agriculture, in particular, increased subsidies to farmers to expand mechanization and use of high quality seeds, has also contributed to crop success.

Wheat imports in marketing year 2006/07 (July/June) are forecast to decline from 2.8 million tonnes last year to about 1 million tonnes. Maize imports are also anticipated to decrease by 7 percent to about 1.3 million tonnes in marketing year 2006/07 (July/June).

TUNISIA (19 September)

Harvesting of the 2006 winter crops has been completed; the wheat and barley crops are estimated at a below-average 1.2 million tonnes and 395 000 tonnes, respectively. These compare to 1.6 million tonnes and 465 000 tonnes collected in 2005, when the crops benefited from more favourable weather conditions. The drop in production is due to a 50-day dry spell through late April that has resulted in crop failure in many parts of the country.

Wheat imports are forecast to increase by 100 000 tonnes to 1.3 million tonnes in marketing year 2006/07 (July/June).

WESTERN AFRICA

BENIN (19 September)

Precipitation has been generally widespread and abundant in the north according to remote sensing rainfall estimates. Although rains were below average in July in the south, overall crop prospects are favourable. Harvesting of the first maize crop is underway in the south. Millet and sorghum crops are developing satisfactorily in the north.

The overall food supply situation is satisfactory. However, low cotton prices combined with a disruption of input and output markets in the cotton sector have negatively affected farmers' incomes in recent years, significantly increasing the vulnerability of the estimated 2 million people who depend on cotton for their livelihood, mostly in the North of the country. This, along with the Nigeria's protectionist policy and the tightening of controls against re-export trade is making access to food increasingly difficult for a large section of the population.

BURKINA FASO (19 September)

Harvest prospects improved significantly following widespread and above-normal rains in August. After erratic and below average rains until late June, which necessitated replanting in most regions and shortened the growing season, precipitation has increased significantly from mid-July, and remained abundant in August. Substantial flooding was reported in the Mouhoun, Cascades and Sahel regions. However, due to the erratic start of the rainy season, stages of crop development vary by regions and are generally late compared to normal years, except in the West and South-West, where cereals are at heading stage and harvesting of beans crops has started. Elsewhere in the country, millet and sorghum are generally in the elongating stage and maize is flowering. Crop development is particularly late in the north-eastern province of Gnagna. Due to the delayed rains and initial dry conditions, rains will need to continue through October to allow crops to reach full maturity. Pastures have regenerated significantly countrywide. The overall pest situation is reported to be calm.

The overall food supply situation has remained satisfactory. Cereal prices, stable since the beginning of the year, have started decreasing in the south, mainly due to increased cereal imports from neighbouring coastal countries where harvesting of the main crops is underway. The downward trend is expected to continue with the start of harvesting in the country.

CAPE VERDE (19 September)

The onset of regular rains in late July permitted widespread maize plantings on the agricultural islands. Rains continued in early August and became more abundant during the second dekad of the month. Soil moisture reserves are adequate in most areas. Crops are emerging satisfactorily and pastures are regenerating well. Cereal bugs and grasshopper infestations are reported in Santiago Island, where treatments are underway.

Following the poor harvest in 2005, cereal import requirements for the marketing year 2005/06 (November/October) were estimated at 105 000 tonnes, including 32 000 tonnes of food aid.

CHAD (19 September)

Rains in August were abundant and widespread after irregular and below average precipitation delayed plantings in the Sahelian zone through mid-July. Due to the late and erratic start of the rainy season, stages of development vary greatly in the regions and are generally late compared to normal years. In the Sudanian zone, millet, sorghum and maize are generally ripening, while rainfed rice crops are elongating. In the Sahelian zone, coarse grains are elongating. Pastures are abundant countrywide. The overall pest situation is calm. Grasshopper infestations were reported on cereal crops only in Pala region.

The security situation in eastern Chad remains unstable and volatile, constraining humanitarian access to the Sudanese refugees living in the eastern part of the country.

CÔTE D'IVOIRE (19 September)

In the South, harvesting of the main maize crop and sowing of the second maize crop are underway, while in the North millet and sorghum crops are developing satisfactorily reflecting overall adequate growing conditions since the beginning of the cropping season. However, agricultural activities continue to be affected by conflict-induced problems, especially labour shortages arising from population displacements, lack of agricultural support services in parts of the country, market segmentation and disruptions by insecurity. Food security for many households continues to be hampered by disruption of livelihoods. In the North, smallholder cotton producers are experiencing a significant loss of income due to the disruption of marketing services.

GAMBIA, REPUBLIC OF (19 September)

The start of the cropping season was late and rains have been irregular in most regions according to remote sensing rainfall estimates. Crops and pastures will need rains late in the season to cover their entire growing cycle.

A record cereal production combined with a good groundnut output in 2005 has resulted in improved household access to food in marketing year 2005/06 (November/October). However, the country imports nearly half of its cereal consumption requirements (mostly rice and wheat) in a normal year and cereal prices are strongly affected by the exchange rate of the Dalassi, the national currency, which is very vulnerable to exogenous shocks due to the country's limited source of foreign exchange. Moreover, in districts affected by floods, a number of households may experience food difficulties during the year.

GHANA (19 September)

Rains have been regular and widespread since the beginning of the major season in April in the South, where harvesting of the first maize crop is underway. In the North, millet and sorghum crops are developing satisfactorily and harvest prospects are good, provided favourable weather conditions persist.

In spite of two consecutive years of relatively low crops, the food supply situation in the country has been satisfactory and prices relatively stable, due to limited exports to neighbouring food-deficit countries where good crops have been harvested in 2005.

GUINEA (19 September)

Following irregular and insufficient rains in several parts of the country at the beginning of the cropping season, precipitation increased significantly from July over the main producing areas, thus improving prospects for the 2006 rice crop, to be harvested from October.

Following a strong depreciation of the Guinea Franc, the price of rice - the staple food for Guineans- more than doubled over the past two years. Petrol prices also increased steeply in recent months fuelling inflation and seriously eroding the purchasing power and access to food of both urban and rural populations. Moreover, about 40 000 refugees are still dependent on humanitarian assistance in the country, although the restoration of peace in Sierra Leone and the improved situation in Liberia have resulted in a relative decrease of the number of refugees.

GUINEA-BISSAU (19 September)

According to remote sensing rainfall estimates, precipitation and soil moisture have been generally adequate since the beginning of the growing season, allowing satisfactory development of crops. Transplanting of swamp rice is underway after desalinisation of swamp rice fields. Harvesting of early maturity varieties of maize should have started.

Severe localized food insecurity and seed shortages were reported in parts of the country, notably in the southern regions of Quinara and Tombali, where heavy rains, floods and salination of irrigation channels resulted in a serious decline in rice output in 2005. The beginning of harvesting is expected to improve the food situation in these areas. However, the majority of the Guinea-Bissau population is facing chronic food insecurity, with a stagnant economy and 65 percent of the population living below the poverty line.

LIBERIA (19 September)

Harvesting of the 2006 paddy crop, virtually the only cereal grown in the country is underway. In spite of the below average rains recorded this year, food production is expected to recover, due mainly to the pest control measures undertaken with the assistance of FAO. Plant disease was the major cause of low yields last year. The improved security situation is also expected to boost plantings by returning refugees and former displaced farmers.

The repatriation of refugees and resettlement of IDPs started in October and November 2004 respectively. As of late July, some 73 000 returnees have been repatriated by UNHCR, and 321 634 persons de-registered from IDP camps.

MALI (19 September)

After erratic and below average rains until late June, which necessitated replanting in most regions and shortened the growing season, precipitation has increased significantly from mid-July, and remained abundant in August and crops are developing satisfactorily. However, stages of development vary greatly, due to the late and erratic start of the rainy season. For millet and sorghum crops, stages of development vary from emerging to heading, while harvesting of early maize crops has started in some regions and transplanting of irrigated rice is still underway. According to the results of the mid-term assessment carried out by the Commissariat à la Sécurité Alimentaire, the area planted with cotton decreased by about 8 percent compared to last year, while millet area is likely to increase significantly. In the areas affected by earlier dry conditions, yield potential will be reduced and late plantings and replanting will need rains until October to cover their entire growing cycle.

Pastures are generally good. Grain-eating birds are reported in several regions, notably in Mopti, Tombouctou, Koulikoro, Dioila. Grasshopper infestations are reported, notably in the pastures of Kayes, Ségou, Mopti, Koulikoro. Army worms and rodents are also reported in a few places. The desert locust situation is calm but scattered adults are likely to be present in the north with small-scale breeding expected

MAURITANIA (19 September)

Following the start of the rainy season in July, crop growing conditions have been favourable in most parts of Trarza and Brakana regions with sufficient and well distributed precipitation. By contrast rains were mostly erratic and below normal in the south-centre and south-east (eastern Ghorgol, Guidimakha and the two Hodhs), where crops were stressed and re-plantings carried-out in several areas. Yield potential of rainfed crops may be compromised if the situation does not improve in September. Seed shortage is reported in most regions, which may also affect area planted.

Pastures have improved significantly in Trarza and Brakna regions but their regeneration has been hindered by the dry spells in Ghorgol, Guidimakha and the two Hodhs. Scattered solitary mature adults of Desert Locusts are reported in the centre (Tagant, northern Brakana) and in the south

(Trarza, the two Hodhs). Small-scale breeding is underway and locust numbers are expected to increase during September.

NIGER (19 September)

Good rains from late July through August remained widespread over the main producing areas in early September. Crops are developing satisfactorily. However, heavy rains and floods caused considerable casualties and damaged crops in several localities, notably in Agadez (Bilma, Tabelot, In Gall), Dosso, Tahoua, Tillabéri and Zinder. As regards the pest situation, infestations of injurious insects are reported on millet in all agricultural regions and treatments have been undertaken. By contrast, grain eating birds are reportedly posing a serious threat to crops in Dosso, Tahoua, Tillabéri, Zinder and Diffa. The Desert Locusts situation is calm but scattered solitary immature and mature adults are reported on the Tamesna Plains and in parts of the central Aïr Mountains, where small-scale breeding is expected to occur, causing locust numbers to increase slightly.

Due to the erratic start of the rainy season, stages of development vary in most regions from elongating to flowering, but millet crops have reached maturity in Dosso, and harvesting of beans has started in Maradi and Zinder. Due to the delayed rains and initial dry conditions, rains will need to continue through October to allow crops to reach full maturity countrywide.

The beginning of harvesting in the country along with increased cereal imports from neighbouring coastal countries are expected to improve food supply and lower prices on markets. However, due to the lingering effects of the 2005 food crisis (1.8 million people are estimated to be in severe food insecurity and 2.1 million in moderate food insecurity), WFP and the Niger Government have begun targeted free food distribution to 650 000 people on 25 August 2006. 200 000 people not covered by targeted distributions but who live in areas poorly served by rural markets are reportedly benefiting from the restocking or creation of village cereal banks.

NIGERIA (19 September)

In the South, rains have been adequate since the beginning of the major season in April and prospects for the first maize crop are favourable. In the north, millet and sorghum crops are developing satisfactorily and a good harvest is expected, provided favourable weather conditions persist.

Cereal imports have trended upwards in recent years, due mainly to high urban population growth, changing consumption pattern, increased feed use in the rapidly growing poultry sector and the continuous expansion of the country's milling capacity. In spite of tightening of controls on illegal rice and wheat inflows, and the potential negative effects of the avian flu epidemic on the poultry sector, imports of cereals are forecast to increase to over 5 million tonnes in 2006.

SENEGAL (19 September)

Following irregular and insufficient rains in most parts of the country at the beginning of the cropping season, precipitation increased significantly in August over the main producing areas, thus reconstituting soil water reserves, and improving crop prospects. Matam received its first rains in August. Satellite imagery for late August/early September indicated that crops continued to benefit from good rains, notably in the South. However, as plantings were delayed and replanting carried out in several regions including Kolda, Tamba, Bakel, Kaolak, Diourbel and Matam, crops and pastures will need rains late in the season to cover their entire growing cycle.

The overall food supply situation is satisfactory. However, localised food insecurity was reported in several regions of the country due mainly to marketing problems in the groundnut sector which is the main source of cash income for most rural households.

SIERRA LEONE (19 September)

Harvesting of the 2006 paddy crop, virtually the only cereal grown in the country, has started.

Agriculture, which has been recovering steadily since the end of the civil war in 2002, is expected to improve further this year, reflecting increasing plantings by returning refugees and farmers previously displaced, as well as improved conditions for the distribution of agricultural inputs.

TOGO (19 September)

Harvesting of the first maize crop is underway in the south. Millet and sorghum crops are developing satisfactorily in the north, following favourable growing conditions.

Following generally favourable growing conditions during the 2005 rainy season, food production (including cereals, cassava, beans and plantains) is estimated to have risen by 5.5 percent compared to 2004, according to official sources. The overall food supply situation is satisfactory. Cereal imports for domestic use and re-exports during the 2006 marketing year are estimated at 165 000 tonnes, to be covered through commercial sources.

CENTRAL AFRICA

CAMEROON (19 September)

Prospects for the current main-season crops are generally favourable, reflecting abundant and widespread rains.

The country experienced adequate agro-climatic conditions in 2005, and crop production was estimated to be above normal. This has contributed to an improved food supply situation in the northern part of the country which experienced severe localised food insecurity in 2005, notably the Chari and Logone Divisions of the extreme north.

CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC (19 September)

Harvesting of the first 2006 maize crop is nearly complete. Satellite imagery indicates that rains have been abundant and widespread since the beginning of the cropping season in April. However, a strong agricultural recovery is not expected due to persistent insecurity notably in the north and inadequate availability of agricultural inputs. About 20 000 people have fled the country to southern Chad over the past year, bringing the number of Central African refugees in the latter country to over 45 000. Another 50 000 people have been internally displaced. The bulk of the Central African Republic population is facing chronic food insecurity, with approximately 73 percent of the population living in deep poverty, surviving on less than one US dollar a day. Chronic malnutrition affects 39 percent of the population, with some 10 percent of children suffering from severe malnutrition.

DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF THE CONGO (20 September)

In the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC), harvesting of main season maize follows from September starting in the north and continues until February in the south. Remote sensing images show estimated rainfall more or less near average. No accurate estimates of total harvest in 2006 are available at this stage, but a normal to above normal harvest is expected. Total cereal production consisting mainly of maize is estimated at 1.58 million tonnes for 2006, unchanged from 2005.

Total cereal import requirements for 2006 are anticipated to be about 530 000 tonnes, slightly higher than for 2005. Most of them with the exception of some 50 000 tonnes of food aid, are expected to be covered by commercial imports. Typically, the majority of commercial imports consist of wheat and rice and most of the food aid consists of maize. Although the general security situation has improved over the last two years, more security related problems have been reported in the last few months, especially in the north-eastern parts of the country, potentially disrupting farming activities and localized food security. According to WFP an estimated 220 000 people have been uprooted by fighting between the Government and Mayi-Mayi rebels in Katanga and another 80 000 displaced in North Kivu Province, and up to 1.6 million internally displaced persons (IDPs)

and other vulnerable people nationwide need assistance. Recent fighting has displaced at least 10 000 people in the northeastern district of Ituri.

CONGO, REP OF (19 September)

Cassava is the major staple food and accounts for over 80 percent of total calorie intake. Domestic cereal production covers about 3 percent of total cereal requirements; the balance is imported, mostly on commercial terms. Cereal import requirements for marketing year 2006 are projected at about 295 000 tonnes.
The effects of the 1997-99 civil war continue to be felt in the agricultural sector due to the disruption of production and marketing activities across the country. The Government has been implementing a Disarmament, Demobilization and Reintegration (DDR) programme for former militiamen since October 2005. About 30 000 former combatants are to benefit from reintegration under the DDR, but the volatile security situation, notably in the Pool region, is affecting the programme and disrupting delivery of humanitarian assistance. According to the UNHCR, the country hosts a large number of refugees from conflicts in neighbouring countries, including DRC Congolese, Angolans and Rwandans.

EQUATORIAL GUINEA (19 Septembre)

The country does not produce a significant quantity of cereals. The staple foods are sweet potatoes, cassava and plantains. It imports on average 12 000 tonnes of wheat and 8 000 tonnes of rice. In recent years inflation in Equatorial Guinea has been higher than in other countries of the Franc Zone, due to rapidly rising domestic demand since the oil boom began in the mid-1990s. Annual inflation is forecast to slow down in 2006/07, to 5.9 percent, from an estimated 6.1 percent in 2005, according to the Economist Intelligence Unit.

GABON (19 September)

The contribution of agriculture to GDP is about 8 percent, reflecting the dominance of the oil sector. The country imports commercially the bulk of its cereal requirement. The main foodcrops are cassava and plantains but some maize is also produced (around 30 000 tonnes).
Imports of cereals in 2006, mainly wheat and rice, are estimated at some 165 000 tonnes.
Economic growth, which has trended downwards in recent years due to declining oil production, recovered significantly in 2005, and is expected to remain relatively high, with continued high oil prices.

SAO TOME AND PRINCIPE (19 September)

The staple food crops are roots, plantains and tubers. Annual imports of cereals are estimated at some 14 000 tonnes. In 2003 agriculture accounted for 19 percent of GDP and about 86 percent of exports, but the structure of the economy will be significantly transformed by oil production which is expected to begin by 2010.

EASTERN AFRICA

BURUNDI (20 September)

In Burundi, the Joint FAO/WFP/Government/UNICEF/OCHA crop and food assessment carried out in May-June 2006, estimated the 2006B total food production in cereal equivalent slightly better (by 1.7 percent) than in 2005B season. Total cereals at 193 000 tonnes were about 3 percent higher than the year before. Above average rains during this season, following dry weather of the 2006A helped but, this increase was not enough to compensate for the drought affected decline in 2006A season. As a result, total cereal production for 2006 is estimated at 287 000 tonnes, about 1 percent below the level achieved in 2005. On average the main season (B) accounts for about 55 percent of the annual output of cereals while seasons A and C add about 40 and 5 percent, respectively. However, the contribution of season B has been increasing over the years and amounted to about 67 percent in 2006.

Cereal import requirements for 2006 are estimated at about 119 000 tonnes, higher than 96 000 tonnes in 2005, reflecting the drought-affected output of 2006A season earlier this year and the increase in population. In 2005 food aid amounted to a little more than half of total imports. Higher amount of food aid is foreseen for this year. According to the national Early Warning System, in Bujumbura, market prices of rice and maize in August 2006 were about 7 and 11 percent above the levels a year ago, respectively. The price of cassava in May 2006 was 120 percent higher and in August 90 percent higher than the corresponding months a year ago due to reduced harvest of this crop. Food price inflation, following the poor harvest in 2006A early in the year, crept up as the cost of a food basket increased by 31 percent in May 2006 compared to the same time last year. This has now (in August) come down to about 10 percent level. The security situation is expected to improve significantly with the signing of cease-fire between the Government and the country's last remaining rebel group on 7 September 2006, potentially ending a 13-year civil war. Food insecurity for the vulnerable groups (IDPs, returnees, and those affected by the drought earlier in the year) is of concern. The international community response so far included food aid pledges/deliveries of 51 000 tonnes.

ERITREA (18 September)

Harvesting of the 2006 cereal and pulse crops will start in the coming few weeks. Following a below average rainfall in June and July, which raised some concern, the August rains were above normal allowing for improved prospects for developing crops. Satellite images indicate that, despite certain delay, crop conditions in the mechanized areas of Gash Barka are slowly improving. Traditional agriculture areas are generally similar to last year and in some areas above average. In August, the Normalized Difference Vegetation Index (NDVI) indicated profiles that are better (greener) than last year and similar to the last seven year average. The August rains have also impacted positively on the pastoral areas of Habero, Nakfa and Asmat compared to the average, but still slightly below last year's conditions.

Eritrea generally produces only a fraction of its total food requirements, even in good rainfall years, and largely depends on imports.

ETHIOPIA (18 September)

Prospects for the 2006 main "meher" season cereal crop, to be harvested from late October, are favourable. Abundant rains since June benefited developing crops in major producing regions. Some of the worst flooding on record has occurred throughout the country, resulting in hundreds of deaths, displacement, and widespread loss of property, crops and livestock. In addition, water borne diseases including diarrhea have increased and present a significant risk. While the full impact of the flooding is still being assessed, urgent food and non-food assistance is needed for about 200 000 people who have lost property, crops and livestock. More flooding is expected in the southeastern and northwestern parts of the country in the coming weeks.

Latest reports of the 2006 secondary "belg" season foodcrops, harvested from June, indicate a good crop. The belg crop accounts for some 7 to 10 percent of the aggregate cereal production of the country, but it is important in several areas, where it provides the bulk of the annual food supplies. By contrast, in the pastoral areas of south-eastern Ethiopia, rainfall was inadequate meaning that recovery in sites of last year's severe food shortages will be delayed.

FAO and WFP will jointly field a mission to the country in November 2006 to assess the outcome of this year's harvest and the food supply outlook for 2007.

KENYA (18 September)

Harvesting of the 2006 long-rains season maize is almost over in most parts of the country and prospects are generally favourable due to good rains in main agricultural areas. The maize crop, for harvest from October, in the Rift Valley, Western and Nyanza Provinces is reported to be good condition. The long rains cropping season normally accounts for 80 percent of total annual food production. Revised official forecasts indicate a long-season maize output of 2.52 million tonnes, about 15 percent above average. The stocks, estimated at 131 000 tonnes, at the National Cereals and Produce Board (NCPB) together with private stocks and anticipated cross-border trade are

expected to cover consumption needs through early next year. Over 50 percent of maize crop has already been harvested, from the lowlands of Nyanza, western, southern areas of the Rift Valley, coastal and south-eastern areas as well as in the lowlands of the Rift Valley Province.

The 2006 long-rains season and the emergency operation have provided considerable relief to pastoralists avoiding a major catastrophe. Improvements in child malnutrition rates are being reported in pastoral and marginal agricultural areas of the country. The number of emergency food aid beneficiaries have been reduced from 3.1 to 2.4 million. However, sustained improvement will require a normal to above-normal short rains season between October and December. Considerable livestock losses experienced between December and March, coupled with a shortened long-rains season in parts, suggests that pastoral lives and livelihoods remain vulnerable to a further shock. An upsurge in disease has also compounded poor nutrition, reducing effectiveness of interventions in some areas. Meanwhile, an increase in the incidence of conflict in the pastoral Turkana, Marsabit and Samburu districts is disrupting normal seasonal migrations.

RWANDA (25 September)

In Rwanda, the Joint FAO/WFP/Government/FEWS-Net crop and food assessment carried out in June 2006, estimated the 2006B total food production in cereal equivalent slightly better (by 1 percent) than in 2005B season. Total cereal harvest of 2006B season, however, estimated at 246 000 tonnes is about 15 percent lower than the same season the year before. Below average rains during this season, following the dry weather of the 2006A, was the main reason for the decline of total cereal output for 2006 to a level of 355 000 tonnes, about 14 percent lower than the final output of 2005 (season A plus season B). Cereal crops seem to have been affected more by the dry weather. Some of the decline has been offset by a bumper crop of beans during this year. On average the main season (B) accounts for about 60 percent of the annual output of cereals. However, the contribution of season B has been increasing over the years and amounted to about 68 percent in 2006.

Total cereal import requirements for 2006 are projected to increase from the estimated 189 000 tonnes in 2005 to 216 000 tonnes. Given the reduced crop harvest in 2006, food aid requirement is expected to double that of 2005, to about 45 000 tonnes.

Currently, staple food prices are higher than at the same period last year. For example, wholesale maize price in Kigali currently (18 September 2006) is US$ 220/tonne as compared to US$207 in September 2005. However, maize price had reached a high of US$320 on 28 June 2006. Similarly bean prices currently are at US$314/tonne as compared to US$299 a year ago. Prices in June 2006 had reached a high of US$365. Price fluctuations are caused by the timing and the expectations about new harvest given the country's two season pattern. Food security among the pastoralists in eastern provinces of Umutara and Kibungo has also been affected by the recent outbreak of foot and mouth disease and the subsequent total quarantine and ban on the sale of livestock and animal products.

SOMALIA (18 September)

Recent heavy rains in the Ethiopian highlands during the month of August caused localized flooding around Jowhar that affected an estimated 30 000 people and 14 000 hectares of farmland. Additional flooding was recorded elsewhere in the Upper and Lower Shabelle and Upper and Lower Juba regions. The expected onset of Deyr rains and the high level of continuing rain in catchment areas indicate a potential for further flooding in the Middle and Lower Shabelle Regions.

The Somalia Food Security Assessment Unit (FSAU) estimated the 2006 main "gu" season cereal crop in Somalia at about 113 000 tonnes, 29 percent less than average. The decline is due to the poor rainfall performance in the main crop producing areas. The gu cereal crop normally accounts for some 70 to 80 percent of annual production.

The overall food security situation in Somalia continues to be alarming. The gu Assessment confirmed that a severe food crisis will persist throughout the country for the rest of 2006, affecting at least 1.8 million people. The situation is further aggravated by the intermittent hostilities and insecurity. Cereal prices peaked in May – June '06 in response to low cereal supplies following the poor crop performance in the previous crop seasons. However, prices have started to

decline in some regions as the current gu harvest started to enter the market. In Bay region where gu production was near average, sorghum prices fell 17 percent between May and July, while maize prices in Shabelle valley dropped by 28 percent in same time period. Given the overall low cereal stocks, combined with poor cereal production, cereal prices are not expected to continue to decline, and could very likely begin to increase again within the next two-three months. In Lower and Middle Juba, which experienced a gu crop failure, cereal prices also declined in the last two months due to food aid distributions in the region.

Global acute malnutrition rates also remain high at over 20 percent and have continued to deteriorate since January 2006. Despite the serious nature of the humanitarian situation in Somalia, only half of the US$326 million requested in the current Consolidated Appeal for Somalia have been committed so far. Any further escalation of conflict in the current standoff could trigger a significant and rapid deterioration in food security. Further information and analysis can be accessed from the Food Security Assessment Unit (FSAU) at: www.fsausomali.org.

SUDAN (18 September)

The continued crisis in Darfur remains the most pressing humanitarian problem. The humanitarian community in Sudan fears hundreds of thousands of people could be displaced again should Darfur face an upsurge in conflict. A realistic scenario could see as many as 350 000 people displaced, loss of basic services such as clean water and healthcare, and an increased dependence on helicopters and planes to deliver aid as road travel becomes too dangerous.

Food security prospects in Darfur are especially worrisome as the deteriorating security situation may disrupt the harvesting of current crops, about to start in the coming few weeks. Killing of civilians and other violations of human rights are also feared, especially in areas that become inaccessible to human rights and protection officers. Humanitarian access, already at its lowest in August since operations in Darfur began in 2004, is predicted to deteriorate dramatically, with travel outside urban centres becoming impossible due to attacks on vehicles. This would necessitate an urgent increase in helicopters and airplanes to distribute aid where possible by air. In addition, a return to conflict would also jeopardize the humanitarian gains made over the last two years, leading to serious long term consequences. Between 2004 and 2006, the efforts of aid agencies halved malnutrition, increased access to primary healthcare by over 600 percent, and provided nearly two million with access to clean water. But since April, lack of access to suffering populations has meant loss of these essential services to thousands. In North Darfur alone, 355 000 people have gone without food aid for two months, and a recent UN survey in the area suggests that malnutrition is rising. Medical agencies believe that many are vulnerable to diseases because they cannot reach medical care. Cholera is an ongoing problem and the malaria season is just beginning. The growing conflict is already inflicting additional suffering on the civilian population: Medical agencies report increasing numbers of patients with weapon-related injuries – 42 percent of surgical interventions are now conflict related. Fighting since May has displaced as many as 100 000 IDPs, many for the second or third time.

In southern Sudan, conflict arising from this year's disarmament process and the ongoing cattle raiding in Jonglei continues to exacerbate food insecurity. Fighting disrupted wild food collection, fishing and traditional livestock/grain exchange mechanisms during the dry season (January to April), forcing households and cattle to return from dry season grazing areas earlier than normal. A UN-led interagency assessment conducted in June found that food shortages have increased due to conflict. Local defence and security forces lost their food to looting, and this overburdened the community as they had to feed the forces at a time when food is most scarce. In addition, insufficient access to seeds and tools reportedly caused by the conflict affected the ability of households to take full advantage of this year's cropping season, despite an earlier than normal season onset and improved rains when compared to last year. The assessment also reported that heavy rains have affected maize and sorghum crops in some areas.

Elsewhere in Sudan, extensive floods in parts of Sudan have displaced tens of thousands of people, and destroyed crops and property. Heavy rains in the Blue Nile catchment areas in Ethiopian highlands caused an overflow of the Nile river and submerged many villages and settlements. Despite reports of a respite, water levels in the Nile surpassed those of earlier years. An FAO/WFP Crop and Food Supply Assessment Mission is visiting southern Sudan in October and is planned to visit northern Sudan in November to assess the main season production and estimate food assistance requirements, if any, in 2007.

TANZANIA, UNITED REPUBLIC OF (18 September)

Harvesting of the 2006 main season cereal crops is almost complete. This has improved cereal availability in all markets. Preliminary reports indicate an above average cereal crop, mainly maize, of about 5.30 million tonnes. There has also been an increase in non-cereal crop availability, mainly root crops and pulses.

The overall food supply situation is satisfactory. The completed harvests in the bimodal rainfall areas and the almost complete harvests in unimodal rainfall regions have generally increased on-farm stocks and access. The prices of maize and all other food crops in many markets have continued to decline from the peak reached in May 2006 but still remain higher than average.

Despite the overall improved food situation, Shinyanga, Singida, and Mwanza regions have overall food deficits due to low local production. These regions are expected to face continued food shortages and high food prices affecting severely limiting access of mainly poor households. The prevailing seasonal dry conditions have also decreased green vegetation cover. The central areas (Dodoma and Singida regions, northern parts of Iringa), eastern zone, Shinyanga region and lowlands of the northeastern areas all have below average levels of vegetation. The deterioration of pasture may impact negatively on livestock conditions.

UGANDA (18 September)

Harvesting of the 2006 main season cereal crop is complete. The rainy season has been delayed in most bimodal areas. In the north, the on-going peace process and improved security conditions have encouraged resettlement and improved household access to land, but the poor performance of the rains has limited extensive planting and cultivation. A recent survey indicated that many IDPs have increased their agricultural production, assisted by inputs provided by humanitarian organizations as access to land has improved. However, off-farm income earning opportunities remain limited. Current estimates indicate that more than 75 percent of IDPs now consume near normal amounts of food, but 25 percent of IDP households are unable to access adequate food. IDPs' main source of food remains food aid, while the remainder is grown or purchased with income from casual labor, crop sales and petty trade.

The food situation in pastoral and agro-pastoral areas of Karamoja is precarious. Large number of poor households now depend on seasonal labour for cash or food, as well as hunting and gathering. Some households have migrated westwards toward to the agriculture zone in search of food. The Ministry of Agriculture, Animal Industry and Fisheries (MAAIF) has recently reported that there is an increased incidence of foot and mouth disease (FMD) in about 20 districts in the "cattle corridor" of central, southern and western Uganda. Vaccinations and quarantine measure were undertaken to limit and minimize the impact.

SOUTHERN AFRICA

ANGOLA (20 September)

In Angola according to the FAO/WFP Crop and Food Supply Assessment Mission the 2006 total cereal production was 749 000 tonnes, some 15 percent lower than the record harvest of 2005, but still 9 percent higher than the average of the previous five years. Following the peace accord and settlement of returnees, the area under cereal crops has increased by almost 50 percent since 2001. Return of 5 133 670 displaced people by December 2005 to their areas of origin (according to the Technical Unit for Coordination of Humanitarian Assistance, UTCAH), and distribution of seeds and hand tools to about 600 000 families, were responsible for the increase in area planted. This notwithstanding, the erratic rains and long dry spells during 2005-06 agricultural season particularly affected the central and southwestern provinces, which include some of the main maize and cereal growing areas of the country. Food production and food security in general in the northern areas, where cassava and sweet potatoes are grown, were found to be satisfactory. However, processing of cassava into flour and then marketing is not widely practiced in Angola. Heavy rains received late in the season during March and April throughout the country helped improve pasture and water availability for livestock but were too late for much of the cereal production.

As result of the reduced harvest, total cereal import requirements for the 2006/07 marketing year (April/March) are estimated at 847 000 tonnes, some 21 percent higher than the year before. With the exception of severely affected districts, prices of maize in general have remained fairly stable during these post harvest months from April 2006. Information on cereal imports is not complete but the available data shows that cereals imports have been slow recording only about 40 000 tonnes by early September. Food security problems arise due to poor road conditions and underdeveloped marketing systems and due to currently rising maize prices. In spite of the economic boom in the country primarily due to high oil prices, food security for the vulnerable population is of concern. The vulnerability analysis by the FAO/WFP Mission has established a figure of about 800 000 people as food insecure and requiring about 58 000 tonnes of cereals as food aid.

BOTSWANA (20 September)

In Botswana, the 2006 main season cereal harvest estimated at 45 000 tonnes represented a significant improvement over the drought-stricken output of the previous year. Consequently, the import requirements for the 2006/07 marketing year (April/March) have been reduced by about 13 percent from the previous year to a level of 291 000 tonnes; these are expected to be covered through commercial imports. So far (by 8/09/2006) about 86 000 tonnes have been received. Pasture conditions during the agricultural season were also reported to be good helping livestock raising which forms an important part of agriculture through out the country, but particularly in the central and southern areas. Repeated outbreaks of foot and mouth disease, however, have jeopardized the country's beef exports hurting the livestock industry.

LESOTHO (20 September)

Final production figures released by the Ministry of Agriculture put the 2006 total cereal harvest at 126 400 tonnes, slight recovery from the two previous drought affected years but still about 3 percent below the average of the previous five years. Total cereal import requirements for the new marketing year 2006/07, which started in April, are almost the same as the last year's imports estimated at little over 200 000 tonnes. All of these, except for about 15 000 tonnes of food aid, are expected to be commercial imports. In the month of August WFP and Cooperating Partners distributed food aid to 75 778 vulnerable people.

MADAGASCAR (21 September)

In Madagascar, 2006 marks a fourth consecutive year of recovery in rice and total cereal production. National rice paddy harvest this year is estimated at 3.5 million tonnes, about 3 percent higher than the last year. However, due to the unfavorably dry weather, especially in the south reduced the coarse grain harvest from 350 000 tonnes in 2005 to 301 000 tonnes this year. The average price of local rice has gradually come down from over 1 100 Ariary/kg in July 2005 to a post harvest low of about 700 by mid-June 2006. The price of imported rice fell even more, partly due to the appreciation of the Malagasy currency against the US dollar. Since mid-June the prices of local as well as imported rice have shown a slight positive seasonal trend, reaching 800 and 900 Ariary, respectively. Relatively high rice prices during the planting time (November-December 2005) in the country probably had a positive impact on area planted to paddy. Total cereal imports for the 2006/07 marketing year (April/March) are forecast at 270 000 tonnes, slightly reduced from the estimated imports the year before. Most of the imports (nearly 90 percent) in 2005/06 were commercial imports. Reportedly, more than 70 percent of Madagascar's 17 million people live below the poverty line of US$1/day, and an increase in child malnutrition has been reported by a recent survey in the south-eastern parts of the country. However, Madagascar's entry into the Southern African Development Community (SADC) in August 2005 is expected to improve trade and boost economic prospects.

MALAWI (21 September)

In Malawi, the official final estimate puts the 2006 maize harvest at 2.6 million tonnes, more than double the devastated harvest during the drought year of 2005. The principal reasons for this bumper harvest were good weather and the Government's subsidized fertilizer distribution program. Similar gains are also forecast for other cereals. In some parts, dry spells during early to mid-December and late February were experienced, causing localized reduction in household food production. As a result of a bumper harvest at the national level, the country is expected to turn

from a net deficit of maize over the last several years to a net surplus in 2006/07 with an estimated potential surplus of nearly 200 000 tonnes in addition to a stock build-up to about 250 000 tonnes. The actual commercial imports of cereals in 2005/06 have been estimated at 289 000 tonnes, consisting of mainly wheat, maize and rice. It is worth noting, however, that during first three months of this new year (April to June 2006), about 28 000 tonnes of maize have been imported through cross-border trade into food deficit southern Malawi from surplus producing northern provinces of Mozambique (FEWS-Net). This amount is slightly lower than the corresponding months in 2005. Malawi would still import wheat and rice due to insufficient domestic production of these commodities.

In spite of the national surplus in grain production, according to Malawi VAC some 833 000 vulnerable people risk missing food entitlements during the 2006/07 marketing year (April/March) and would require 57 300 tonnes of maize (or equivalent cash) as aid, redistributed from local production. The national average price of maize, collected by the Ministry of Agriculture and Food Security, has come down from a high of 50 Kwacha/kg in February 2006 to below the purchase price of 20 Kwacha/kg offered by ADMARC in majority of the markets. However, due to financial constraints ADMARC was able to buy only 34 000 tonnes by the end of July.

MAURITIUS (25 September)

Total cereal import requirements for 2006 in Mauritius are expected to remain stable at about 310 000 to 320 000 tonnes. Domestic production of cereals amounts to less than 1 percent of total cereal needs; consequently the country imports commercially virtually its entire cereal consumption requirements. Sugarcane is grown on about 90 percent of the cultivated land area and accounts for 25 percent of the country's export earnings. The anticipated loss of preferential access to US and European markets by 2007 is expected to have negative consequences for sugar and textiles, the two important exports of the country. For the last three years Mauritius has been experiencing a relatively high unemployment rate (in excess of 10 percent) according to the Economist Intelligence Unit, nearly double the average of 5.9 percent for 2000. A new government was elected in July 2006 which will face challenges to tackle the problems of securing a new sugar deal, dealing with textile imports from China and reducing unemployment.

MOZAMBIQUE (25 September)

In Mozambique, the final estimates by the Ministry of Agriculture put maize and total cereal production at record levels of 1.534 million tonnes and 2.096 million tonnes, respectively. This represents an increase of 11 and 10 percent, respectively, from the corresponding levels the year before. Cassava production, concentrated mainly in the north, is estimated at 7.5 million tonnes, an increase of about 14 percent over the previous year; it is expected to improve household food security in general. The country's Northern zone is estimated to produce maize surplus of 431 000 tonnes while the central and southern zones are estimated to have a combined deficit of 332 000 tonnes during 2006/07 marketing year (April/March).

Total cereal import requirements (gross) for 2006/07 are estimated at 809 000 tonnes, reduced from 990 000 tonnes from the year before. As of 18 September 2006, total cereal imports were estimated at about 190 000 tonnes. Most of the imports in 2005/06 were commercial transactions except for about 93 000 tonnes of food aid. Exports of maize through cross border trade from northern Mozambique mainly into Malawi for the 2005/06 marketing year (Apr/Mar) accounted for a little over 71 000 tonnes, somewhat less than the year before. In spite of the good harvest in Malawi this year, cross border exports from Mozambique have continued more or less at the same pace during April and May, and at a slightly reduced level in June 2006. However, new requirements for all traders in Mozambique to obtain export licenses are expected to hinder small trader activities (FEWS-Net). Reflecting the poor harvest of last year in the south and high export demand in the north from neighboring food deficit Malawi, the average price of maize steadily climbed to a peak of 13 000 Metical/kg in March 2006 in Maputo from 7 000 Metical from the beginning of the year, and remained substantially higher than for the same period in 2005. However, the post-harvest period prices this year came down significantly and were at 5 290 Metical/kg in Maputo during the week of 6 September 2006 (SIMA, Ministry of Agriculture).

Unemployment, poverty and localized food insecurity remain as primary concerns throughout the country in spite of the impressive economic growth (7.7 percent in 2005 according to the OECD) fuelled primarily by foreign investment (commercial, aid and debt relief). The national currency had

lost its value against the US dollar from 18 500 Metical/USD at the beginning of 2005 to 29 150 Metical in mid-November 2005. However, more donor assistance and FDI flows have brought strength to the national currency as it currently stands at 25 190 Metical/USD.

NAMIBIA (25 September)

The 2006 estimates by the Namibia Early Warning and Food Information Unit, put the maize harvest at a record level of 52 000 tonnes, some 27 percent above last year's and about 60 percent above the previous five-year average. Total cereal production at 110 000 tonnes, however, is only 10 percent above the 2005 level. Generally good rains since the beginning of the season in late-November 2005 throughout the country were the primary contributing factor for this. Over the years, maize production in Namibia has steadily increased from a low of 15 000 tonnes in 1999 to the current high level. In spite of improved production, the total cereal import requirement is estimated to rise slightly to 164 000 tonnes of cereals, expecting certain stock adjustments to normal level. Commercial imports are expected to cover most of the food deficit. Maize prices in Namibia follow very closely the price movements on the South Africa's SAFEX (futures market). Currently, the September futures price for white maize on SAFEX is R 1 334/t which is about 4.6 percent higher than the Namibia Agronomic Board floor price equivalent of R 1275/t.

In spite of the high per capita income (per capita GDP at the Purchasing Power Parity for 2003 was US$6 180 as per the UNDP's Human Development Report 2005), extreme poverty and food insecurity persist in the country.

SOUTH AFRICA (25 September)

In South Africa, the eighth and final estimate by the official Crop Estimating Committee for 2005/06 agricultural season shows maize production at 6.6 million tonnes, significantly down from 11.7 million tonnes the year before. Sorghum production, at 89 730 tonnes, is even harder hit as it is estimated at only one-third of the level of the past year. Much of the decline in these crops is due to substantial decreases in area planted. These changes seem to be a result of choices made by farmers faced with very low or unprofitable prices at planting times and very high closing stocks of maize for the 2005/06 marketing year (estimated at 4 million tonnes as of 30 April 2006). A small part of this decline was compensated by other cash crops such as soybeans, dry beans, sunflower seeds and groundnuts. The early forecast (second estimate) of winter wheat production this year points to about 15 percent increase over the previous year's harvest. Much of this is due to the anticipated increase in yields which are expected to more than compensate the decline in area planted. The plantings were down reflecting the weakening international price of wheat from a peak of almost Rand 2 400/tonne in May 2002 to about Rand 1 600 in May 2006. SAGIS total maize stocks as of 31 July 2006 were reported at 5.3 million tonnes. However, with the reduced production next season and increased anticipated exports, the closing stock at the end of the current marketing year (30 April 2007) is projected to be a little over one million tonnes.

The results of an early survey on planting intentions for the next main season crops (maize and sorghum) indicate a significant recovery in area to be planted under these crops, reflecting current high prices of these commodities. The SAFEX futures price of white maize steadily rose since July 2005 from about Rand 700/tonne to Rand 1 390/tonne in July 2006. Currently the September futures price is at Rand 1 334 and is projected to further firm up until next harvest beginning in April 2007. This is partly due to the reduction in the current harvest and partly due to weak Rand against the US dollar.

SWAZILAND (25 September)

In Swaziland, the final official 2006 season maize production is estimated at 67 130 tonnes, indicating no change from the previous year's output. FAO's estimate for total cereal is 68 200 tonnes. With anticipated domestic utilization of 194 000 tonnes, there remains an import requirement gap of about 127 000 tonnes for the current marketing year 2006/07 (May/Apr). As of 18 September 2006, the estimated cereal imports amount to about 35 000 tonnes, all as commercial imports except for 2 500 tonnes of food aid. Since the arrival of the new harvest, food availability and food security in general have improved. However, chronic food insecurity persists throughout the country owing to declining income-earning opportunities and remittances, high

levels of unemployment, and the impact of HIV/AIDS. With a self-sufficiency rate for cereals of only about one-third, the Swazi population is mostly dependent on food imports.

ZAMBIA (25 September)

In Zambia, the final official 2006 estimates put maize and total cereal production at record levels of 1.424 and 1.599 million tonnes, respectively. These represent increases in excess of 50 percent over the drought-affected harvest of the previous year. Besides the good weather, the government's subsidized fertilizer distribution program targeted to 125 000 small farmers was a contributing factor. Consequently, Zambia is estimated to have a potentially exportable surplus of about 180 000 tonnes assuming about 200 000 tonnes of closing stocks. However, it should be noted that exports of maize are being controlled by the Government with a ban on private trader exports (FEWS-Net). Total cereal import requirements mostly wheat and rice and food aid in the form of different grains for the marketing year 2006/07 (May/April) are estimated at about 105 000 tonnes, comprising of commercial imports and food aid roughly half and half. This is less than half of the actual imports of the last year.

Since the arrival of the new harvest, the average price of maize has come down from about 58 000 kwacha/50 kg bag in Lusaka in March 2006 to the current level of Kwacha 35 117 (CHC Commodities Ltd). In recent months prices have firmed-up by about 4 000 kwacha since late June however, the farm gate prices in many rural areas have not reached the National Food Reserve Agency (FRA) announced buying price floor of Kwacha 38 000 (US$232/tonne) valid for the period from 25 May to the end of September 2006. As reported by FEWS-Net, FRA has purchased locally about 70 000 tonnes of maize by first week of August. FRA now has a procurement target of about 200 000 tonnes.

ZIMBABWE (25 September)

FAO's final maize harvest estimate for Zimbabwe is 1.1 million tonnes, with a further 400 000 tonnes of other grains such as millet, sorghum and wheat, as total domestic supply for marketing year 2006/07 (April/March). The overall harvest this year has been about double the last year's drought-affected output. Crops such as millet and sorghum, which normally receive no fertilizer applications in Zimbabwe, have reportedly done very well this year. In spite of this improved harvest, given the estimated total cereal requirement of 1.957 million tonnes, FAO estimates import requirement for 2006/07 marketing year (April/March) for the total Zimbabwean population of 11.79 million, at about 457 000 tonnes of total cereals including 350 000 tonnes of maize, roughly less than third of the levels of the previous year. Of these, as of 18 September 2006, about 161 000 tonnes of total cereal imports have been recorded (118 000 tonnes commercial and 43 000 tonnes of food aid). Commercial import capacity in Zimbabwe is limited by the continuing downward trends in export earnings from main crops such as tobacco and cotton, although this is offset by rising metal export prices as well as official and unofficial remittances from the large number of Zimbabweans (estimated at over 3 million) living outside the country.

According to the country's Central Statistics Office (CSO), annual inflation in July 2006 had reached an unprecedented level of 1 204.6 percent, driven partly by liberal money supply policies resulting in higher prices for housing, food, fuel and other necessities. The IMF recently stated that inflation could reach 4 279 percent next year. According to the findings of the Zimbabwe Vulnerability Assessment Committee 1.4 million rural people will not be able to meet their minimum cereal needs during the 2006/07 season. This represents about 17 percent of the total rural population , who will require a total of 91 000 tonnes of cereals. In addition, unemployment, lack of incomes and continually eroding purchasing power is increasing the number of food insecure in the urban areas.

The country faces a number of challenges to facilitate access to grain by the majority of the population, particularly in grain cereal deficit areas including urban areas. Redistribution of grain at national level will also be a challenge, over the years the amount of maize intake by the Grain Marketing Board has declined from an average of 34 percent of national production in the 90's to around 18 percent in the past five years. Given the fact that GMB by law is the only institution allowed to purchase and redistribute maize, this poses a national challenge of redistributing the grain from surplus areas to deficit areas.

ASIA

BANGLADESH (19 September)

Harvesting of the 2006 minor Aus paddy crop was completed in August and the output is close to normal. Prospects for the main Aman crop, current in the ground and due for harvest in November-December, are favourable. The Boro crop, harvested in May, was very good and benefited from favourable weather, and the aggregate paddy output in 2006 is tentatively forecast at a record 41 million tonnes. Output of the 2006 wheat, harvested in March-April, is estimated at some 1 million tonnes. Total cereal imports in 2006/07 (July/June) are forecast at some 3 million tonnes, around the previous year's level.

CAMBODIA (20 September)

There are two seasons of paddy production in the country: wet season and dry season, with the wet season production accounting for some 80 percent of the total. Planting/transplanting of the wet season rice, due for harvest from November, has been completed. The aggregate 2006 paddy production is tentatively forecast above last year's record level, reflecting higher plantings and good weather. With the increase in production, the country is expected to have enough rice for domestic consumption and some exportable surplus in 2007.

Heavy rains and strong winds in August 2006 have reportedly affected nine provinces in Cambodia, resulting in more than 33 000 people evacuated. Over 500 families are in need of urgent assistance. The rains have had a mixed impact on paddy crop in some areas, eased drought for others, but in others destroyed crops. More than 7 000 hectares of paddy crop were damaged by floods in many provinces located in the northern, western, and west-southern of the country.

CHINA (19 September)

The worst drought, in the last fifty years, has reportedly affected more than 3 million hectares of crops in Sichuan Province and Chongqing Municipality. The economic losses are officially estimated at more than 10 billion yuan (1.25 billion US dollars) in Sichuan and over 6 billion yuan (0.75 billion US dollars) in Chongquing. At the same time, China also was hard-hit by a series of devastating typhoons and tropical storms, killing over 600 people and causing over 3 million people displaced.

The outcome of the 2006 early rice crop, harvested in July was estimated at 32 million tonnes. The main rice crop is presently being harvested, while harvesting of the late crop is due in October-November. The forecast for the 2006 aggregate paddy production (the three crops) has been revised downward to 180 million tonnes from the previous estimate of 185 million tonnes to reflect the impact of the serious drought in Sichuan, Chongqing as well as in Heilongjiang Provinces. However, at this level, production is still close to the good crop of last year.

Harvesting of maize in southern areas was completed in August, while is still ongoing in northern parts. The latest estimates point to a record output of 142 million tonnes as a result of increased area planted and higher yields.

In 2006/07, China's cereal imports are expected to remain at last year's relatively low level of some 4 million tonnes, but cereal exports are forecast to be reduced from some 7.5 million tonnes to 5.5 million tonnes.

INDIA (19 September)

The 2006 southwest monsoon has been on the long-term average, but with highly skewed distribution. Harvesting of the 2006 main Kharif rice, coarse grains, oilseeds and groundnuts crops has begun. The Kharif rice production this year is forecast at 76 million tonnes, some 2.7 per cent higher than last year. The aggregate output of the 2006 rice crop is forecast at some 93.3 million tonnes, some 2 million tonnes above the good level of the previous year. The 2006 wheat output is officially estimated at 69.48 million tonnes, 1.2 percent above the reduced crop of 2005 year, and

about average. In order to replenish stocks, wheat imports in 2006/07 (April/March) are expected to reach 6 million tonnes, resulting in a change in the country trade position, from a large net exporter of wheat to a large net importer (behind Egypt, Brazil, and the European Union.

INDONESIA (20 September)

Foodcrops presently in the ground are secondary/dry season paddy and maize, which are due for harvest from late October. The 2006 aggregate paddy production is officially forecast at about 54.8 million tonnes, the third consecutive good crop, reflecting the ample irrigation water supplies. The 2006 maize crop is forecast at some 12.5 million tonnes, the same level as last year. The overall food supply situation in Indonesia is satisfactory. Imports of wheat, which is not produced in the country, are forecast to remain stable at around 4.8 million tonnes in 2006/07 (April/March). Maize imports are expected at 500 000 tonnes.

While the national cereal supply position is satisfactory, a large number of vulnerable population, especially those affected by natural disasters (earthquakes and tsunami) in the past years continue to be in need of need international food assistance. This year, in May, an earthquake struck Yogyakarta, leaving some 6 000 people dead and some 300 000 homes destroyed. In July, an earthquake and tsunami on the island of Java, caused widespread damage of houses and a large number of people displaced.

JAPAN (19 September)

Harvesting of the 2006 main rice crop is about to start. The paddy output is forecast at 10.41 million tonnes. The rice import in 2007 is expected at some 800 000 tonnes. As part of the liberalization of its rice policy, the Government has announced the elimination of controls on production starting from 2008.

The import of wheat and coarse grain in 2006/07 (July/June) is forecast to remain steady at 5.4 million tonnes and 19.7 million tonnes respectively.

KOREA, DEMOCRATIC PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF (19 September)

South Korea provided 100 000 tonnes of rice in a one-time aid package, which also included building materials and equipment.

Harvesting of the 2006 main season crops of rice, maize, and potatoes is underway. A lower output than last year is expected. Total cereal import requirement in 2006/07 (Nov/Oct), including commercial import and food aid, is tentatively forecast at some 1 million tonnes.

Severe floods that struck South Pyongan, North Hwanghae, Kangwon and South Hamgyong provinces in mid-July totally or partially destroyed 23 400 houses and left some 19 000 families homeless. The floods caused extensive damage to crops and infrastructure in some districts. Maize, paddy and soybeans were among the main summer crops being cultivated. There was also considerable loss from family kitchen garden plots (tomatoes, cabbages, beans, cucumbers etc, some fruits, as well as small livestock such as pigs, chickens, ducks, rabbits etc) in the affected areas.

KOREA, REPUBLIC OF (19 September)

Harvesting of the 2006 paddy crop will start at the end of this month and continue into November, with the output forecast at 4.67 million tonnes of milled rice, some 2 percent down from a year earlier, due to lower area planted and unfavourable weather.

The country produces only about one third of its annual cereal consumption requirement. Cereal imports in the 2006/07 marketing year (October/September) are estimated at 13.4 million tonnes, with 9.1 million tonnes of maize and 3.8 million tonnes of wheat.

LAO PEOPLE'S DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC (20 September)

The wet season paddy crop, accounting for about 85 percent of the annual cereal production and predominantly grown in the Mekong River basin, is due for harvest from October through December. The aggregate paddy production in 2006 is forecast at 2.6 million tonnes, 32 000 tonnes above last year. With the expected higher rice production, the country can virtually maintain its food sufficiency in 2006. However, Laos is one of the poorest and least developed countries in the world. Some 30 percent of population is estimated to live below the national poverty line. Even in normal agricultural years, one third of the population, predominantly in upland areas, experiences rice deficit for four months and need food assistance.

MALAYSIA (19 September)

Harvesting of the irrigated secondary paddy crop, which normally accounts for more than 40 percent of total production, is ongoing, while harvesting of the main paddy crop finished in April. The 2006 paddy output is provisionally forecast at the average level of 2.2 million tonnes, following a close to average season. Rice import in 2006/07 is forecast at some 760 000 tonnes, representing some 35 percent of domestic consumption. Wheat is not produced in Malaysia and maize production is insignificant. The 2006/07 import requirement is forecast at some 1.4 million tonnes of wheat and 2.4 million tonnes of maize.

MALDIVES (April 2006)

Maldives was the smallest country hit by the tsunami on 26 December 2004, but it suffered the sharpest blow in relative terms. After more than nine months, the country is facing severe budget and economic problems, as a result of both tsunami and rising oil prices. The tourism industry accounts for a large percentage of the country's GDP. Despite repairs in a number of resorts damaged by the tsunami, tourist numbers in the first nine months of 2005 dropped by about 30 percent from the same period of the previous year, but have now reportedly returned to normal. Fisheries and agriculture were also damaged by the tsunami. FAO has been providing assistance in the building of boats and fishing gear and supplied farmers with the required agricultural inputs and tools (fertilizer, vegetable seeds, cuttings and seedlings, and hand tools).

MONGOLIA (19 September)

Harvesting of the 2006 wheat crop, virtually the only cereal produced in the country, is underway. Most parts of the country has experienced a normal rainfall and temperature this summer and the output of this crop is provisionally forecast around the average level of 127 000 tonnes. This will cover only about 33 percent of domestic wheat utilization, leaving an estimated import requirement for 2006/07 of 256 000 tonnes.

Dzud and drought conditions in Mongolia in last several years have substantially depleted household coping mechanisms and have resulted in an increase in poverty. An joint UN food security expert consultation and food security assessment mission will visit the country in October 2006.

MYANMAR (20 September)

Harvesting of the 2006 main season paddy crop, accounting for some 85 percent of annual production, will begin next month. The aggregate output is forecast at a record 24.8 million tonnes due to an increase in the area planted and normal weather conditions during the growing season. The production of maize in 2006 is forecast at 950 000 tonnes slightly above last year’s level, also as a result of increased plantings. Reflecting steady increases in paddy production in the past few years, the overall cereal supply situation is satisfactory in the country with a net export of cereals in 2005/06 forecast at some 400 000 tonnes, similar to the level of 2006.

NEPAL (20 September)

The 2006 paddy crop is due for harvest in November-December. Excessive rains in some parts are likely to have negatively affected summer crops. The outcome of the harvest is provisionally forecast at 4.3 million tonnes, some 100 000 tonnes above the crop of last year. Harvesting of maize is underway and that of millet will start soon. The aggregate output of coarse grains is

expected at about last year's level of 1.9 million tonnes. The cereal output in 2006/07 can meet the domestic consumption.

According to the Nepal Red Cross Society, more than 16 000 families in 26 districts have been affected by this year's seasonal floods and landslides. By mid-September, over 45 000 people have received relief assistance. WFP plans to deliver some 1 300 tonnes of food to the affected population in the western regions.

The armed conflict and the unstable political situation in the country also continue to disrupt the food security and livelihood of thousands of families.

PAKISTAN (19 September)

Harvesting of the 2006 paddy and coarse grain crop is underway. Paddy production in 2006 is forecast to be less than last year's record, but higher than the average due to favourable weather conditions. Rice exports in 2006 are forecast at 3.4 million tonnes in 2006 and 3.2 million tonnes in 2007.

The 2006 wheat crop harvested in April-May was estimated at a record level of 21.7 million tonnes, reflecting increased availability of irrigation water and increased application of fertilizers and herbicides. However, despite the larger domestic crop, the country is expected to import some 500 000 tonnes of wheat in 2006/07 to maintain strategic reserves and meet demand of the growing population.

PHILIPPINES (19 September)

Harvesting of the main rice and maize crops is underway. The 2006 aggregate paddy production is officially forecast at a record 15.5 million tonnes, some 11 percent above five-year average reflecting favourable weather, the distribution of higher yielding seeds and expanded (irrigated) areas planted. Similarly, the maize harvest is expected to reach, at a record level of 6 million tonnes, compared to 5.25 million tonnes last year and the five-year average of 4.83 million tonnes.

With this expected larger harvest, the import requirement of rice in 2006/07 is forecast at 1.3 million tonnes, down from last year's 1.7 million tonnes, while that of maize is anticipated at 50 000 tonnes, comparing with 321 000 tonnes last year. Wheat is not produced in the country and import requirements in 2006/07 are estimated at 2.75 million tonnes.

SRI LANKA (20 September)

The main 2006 Maha rice crop, planted in October-November 2005, was harvested in March/April Output was officially estimated at some 2.135 million tonnes, 120 000 tonnes above last year's production, mainly reflecting favourable weather conditions during the growing season. Harvesting of the 2006 irrigated Yala rice crop is underway. Aggregate paddy production in 2006 is provisionally forecast at 3.3 million tonnes to slightly higher than last year's bumper crop. Total cereal import requirements in 2006/07 (July-June) are forecast at about 1.2 million tonnes.

The deterioration of the political and security situation in Sri Lanka since late 2005 has significantly affected food security in some areas of the country, particularly districts in the Northeast which also affected by the 2004 tsunami disaster. A WFP special operation project amounting to 2.6 million dollars has just started in September for five months in support of 600 000 beneficiaries.

THAILAND (20 September)

The main 2006 rice crop, accounting for about 75 percent of annual rice production, is at the development stage. Weather conditions since the beginning of the season in mid-May have been generally favourable . Harvesting of the crop will begin in November and the 2006 paddy output is provisionally forecast at 30.6 million tonnes, some 600 000 tonnes above the record achieved last year, reflecting the good growing conditions and attractive intervention prices that prompted an increase in plantings.

The country maintains its status as the world's largest rice exporter. In 2006, exports are forecast at 7.3 million tonnes, compared to 7.5 million tonnes in the previous year. Output of the 2006 maize crop, just harvested, is estimated at 3.75 million tonnes, which would be enough to meet domestic consumption requirement in 2006/07.

TIMOR-LESTE, DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF (20 September)

Harvesting of the 2006 rice crop, one of the main staples of the country, is complete in northern areas, but is still underway in southern parts. Aggregate output of cereals (milled equivalent) is expected to recover from the drought-affected level of last year and is tentatively forecast at 129 000 tonnes. However, the country needs to import some 50 000 tonnes of cereals (mainly rice) in 2006/07 (July/June). Inadequate agricultural infrastructures and poor soil quality in most parts of Timor-Leste continue to hinder development of the agricultural sector.

The food security situation of many urban residents remains significantly affected by recent civil unrest. On 25 August 2006, the Security Council unanimously approved resolution 1 704 creating a new and expanded UN mission in Timor-Leste for an initial period of six months, subject to renewal. By the end of August, WFP had provided a 1 467 tonnes of food assistance to approximately 167 100 beneficiaries.

VIET NAM (20 September)

Harvesting of the winter/spring paddy crop was completed in July. The aggregate paddy output in 2006 is expected to be record at 36.7 million tonnes, reflecting increased plantings and higher yield. Viet Nam, the world's second largest rice exporter after Thailand, exported around 5.2 million tonnes of rice in 2005 and a similar amount is expected in 2006.

The 2006 maize crop is estimated at 3.8 million tonnes, similar to last year's record. At this level of production the country is expected to virtually maintain self-sufficiency in maize.

NEAR EAST

AFGHANISTAN (13 September)

Cereal harvesting is complete and latest estimates show aggregate harvest significantly lower than previous estimates. Reduced precipitation and significantly high temperatures compromised almost all of the rain-fed cereals and affected irrigated wheat yields. In some areas of Northern and Western Afghanistan harvest has been completely lost and water tables have receded significantly prompting movement of people out of some villages in search of food and water. The situation could deteriorate in lean winter months, when households traditionally store food from summer harvests for consumption in Winter. Household assets and coping strategies have been, by and large, exhausted amid the continuing civil strife and lack of alternative sources of livelihoods. Therefore, even a small fluctuation in crop production has significant consequences, as consumption cushioning in many areas is not a viable option. Aggregate cereal harvest is now estimated at about 3.8 million tonnes, some 1.3 million tonnes down on last year's harvest. Wheat, the main staple crop accounting for a large proportion of the daily diet, has dropped by 1 million tonnes compared with last year's harvest of 4.2 million tonnes. The cereal harvest this year also includes some 240 000 tonnes of paddy rice, 240 000 tonnes of maize and 220 000 tonnes of barley. Aggregate cereal import requirement for the 2006/07 marketing year is forecast at about 740 000 tonnes, including 600 000 tonnes of wheat and 140 000 tonnes of rice. Cereal imports includes 150 000 tonnes of wheat in food aid requirement.

WFP under the current Protracted Relief and Recovery Operation (PRRO) is targeting a total of 4.8 million vulnerable people. The main recovery activities are food for work, food for education, irrigation, forestry and infrastructure rehabilitation. The relief operations, nearly a third of the total, include targeted assistance to vulnerable households, internally displaced, returning refugees and long term patients.

CYPRUS (18 September)

Sowing of the 2007 wheat and barley crops is about start. Aggregate cereal output in 2006 is estimated at 122 000 tonnes, compared to the previous year's output of about 102 000 tonnes.

Imports of wheat in 2006/07 (May/April) are forecast at 100 000 tonnes, while aggregate imports of barley and maize are forecast at some 540 000 tonnes.

IRAN, ISLAMIC REPUBLIC OF (20 September)

Harvesting of the 2006 irrigated paddy and maize crops is underway. The yield of maize and rice is likely to be above normal. The 2006 paddy output is provisionally forecast at a new record level of 3.4 million tonnes, compared to 3.3 million tonnes in the previous year. In recent years, production of irrigated maize has been encouraged by the Government, and the 2006 output is also estimated to be a record at 1.7 million tonnes. The outcome of the winter wheat crop, harvested in June-July is estimated at some 14.5 million tonnes, unchanged from the previous year's level. Reflecting the increase in production, cereal import requirements in 2006/07 (Apr/Mar) are expected to decline to about 4.6 million tonnes from 5.3 million a year ago.

IRAQ (19 September)

Planting of the 2007 winter wheat crop is expected to start within the next few weeks. Cereal production may continue to be affected by serious shortages of fertilizers and other agricultural inputs, mainly as a result of the continuing security problems. The 2006 total cereal crop, harvested earlier in the year, is estimated at 3.1 million tonnes, similar to the output in 2005.

The food security situation in the country remains extremely fragile. Recent events indicate a deterioration of security conditions which led to an increase in humanitarian needs in crisis areas. The UN and other international agencies are monitoring the evolution of the situation and providing assistance as needed.

ISRAEL (18 September)

Planting of the 2007 wheat and barley crops, to be harvested during April/May next year, is about to begin. Output of wheat harvested earlier this year in May/June is estimated at 180 000 tonnes, more than 40 percent above the previous year's crop. Imports of cereals in 2006/07 (July/June) are forecast at some 2.9 million tonnes.

JORDAN (18 September)

Sowing of the 2007 wheat and barley crops, for harvest in May/June next year, is about to start. In 2006, aggregate output of wheat and barley id estimated at 93 000 tonnes, compared to 66 000 tonnes in 2005. Imports of cereals in 2006/07 (July/June) are forecast at some 2 million tonnes.

LEBANON (18 September)

The recent conflict between Israel and political factions in Lebanon has affected food, fuel and medical supplies and large parts of the country's infrastructure lies in ruins. Hundreds of thousands of people were displaced within and outside the country. The cessation of hostilities has eased some of the problem but humanitarian assistance is still needed.

FAO's estimate of the 2006 total cereal output stands at about 146 000 tonnes, an average level. However, assessments of the impact of the conflict have yet to be carried out. Domestic cereal output usually covers only about 10 percent of consumption requirements, and the country depends heavily on imports for such essential food items as wheat, rice, sugar and milk powder. Imports of cereals -- mainly wheat -- in 2006/07 (July/June) are forecast at some 800 000 tonnes.

SAUDI ARABIA (18 September)

Planting of the wheat crop for harvest in April/May next year is about to start. Production of wheat in 2006 is estimated at 2.4 million tonnes, similar to the previous year. Total imports of cereals in

2006/07 (July/June) are currently estimated at about 9 million tonnes, including about 6.5 million tonnes of barley.

SYRIA (18 September)

Sowing of the 2007 wheat and barley crops is about to start and will continue until mid-January next year. The 2006 wheat production, harvested earlier this year, is estimated at 5.2 million tonnes. At this level, the production is about 11 percent above the previous year's crop. Barley production, which is almost entirely rainfed, is estimated at a below average 700 000 tonnes.

TURKEY (18 September)

Sowing of the 2007 wheat crop is underway. The recently harvested 2006 wheat crop July, is estimated at 20.3 million tonnes, similar to the previous year's crop. The barley crop is estimated at about 8.8 million tonnes, compared to last year's 9.2 million tonnes.

Wheat import in the current 2006/07 (July/June) marketing year is expected to be around 800 000 tonnes.

YEMEN (18 September)

Good Rainfall has generally favoured the main 2006 sorghum and millet crops, for harvest from October. The aggregate cereal output in 2005 is forecast to fall marginally from the previous year's level to about 534 000 tonnes but would still be close to the average of the past five years.

Imports of cereals in 2006 - mainly wheat - are estimated at about 2.9 million tonnes.

ASIAN CIS

ARMENIA (12 September)

Cereal harvesting is complete and aggregate harvest is estimated at about 409 000 tonnes, compared with 378 000 tonnes harvested in 2005. This year's aggregate cereal harvest includes some 325 000 tonnes of wheat and 72 000 tonnes of barley. The potato crop, the second most important staple after wheat, has fared well despite relatively cold winter. Aggregate cereal import requirement during the 2006/07 marketing year is estimated at about 120 000 tonnes, including 25 000 tonnes in food aid.

AZERBAIJAN (13 September)

Latest reports indicate that Azerbaijan has harvested just over 2 million tonnes of cereals compared with 1.9 million tonnes in 2005. This year's aggregate harvest includes some 1.6 million tonnes of wheat, 212 000 tonnes of barley and 150 000 tonnes of maize. Annual cereal consumption requirement is estimated at more than 3.1 million tonnes. Azerbaijan usually imports about a million tonnes of cereals, mainly food quality wheat to meet consumption requirements. During the 2006/07 marketing year cereal import requirement is estimated at about 967 000 tonnes, which includes 905 000 tonnes of wheat and 35 000 tonnes of maize. During the 2005/06 marketing year aggregate imports totalled some 1.05 million tonnes, including 990 000 tonnes of wheat.

GEORGIA (13 September)

Latest reports indicate that Georgia has just harvested a record 693 000 tonnes of cereals slightly up on last year's output estimated at 688 000 tonnes. This year's harvest includes some 197 000 tonnes of wheat, 420 000 tonnes of maize and 65 000 tonnes of barley. Georgia is a food-deficit country and needs nearly 1.5 million tonnes of cereals per annum to meet consumption requirements of mainly wheat (about 900 000 tonnes) and maize (about 450 000 tonnes). Aggregate cereal imports during the 2006/07 marketing year are forecast at about 765 000 tonnes,

including 100 000 tonnes in food aid requirements. Most of the cereal imports are food quality wheat.

WFP has been provided targeted food aid to some 220 000 people under Protracted Relief and Recovery Operation (PRRO), which comprises of relief and recovery components, mainly food distribution to vulnerable groups and Food for Work programmes.

KAZAKHSTAN (13 September)

Cereal harvesting is nearly complete and latest estimates put output at 14.4 million tonnes compared with 13.9 million tonnes last year. The estimated harvest this year includes some 11.58 million tonnes of wheat, 1.8 million tonnes of barley, 230 000 tonnes of paddy rice and 400 000 tonnes of maize. Cereal exports during the 2006/07 marketing year are forecast at about 4.68 million tonnes, including 4.3 million tonnes of wheat and 266 000 tonnes of barley. Cereal exports during the 2005/06 marketing year totalled some 3.9 million tonnes of mainly wheat.

THE KYRGYZ REPUBLIC (12 September)

The Kyrgyz Republic has just harvested some 1.77 million tonnes of cereals, which is slightly up on last year's above-average harvest. This includes 1.08 million tonnes of wheat, 450 000 tonnes of maize, 210 000 tonnes of barley and 16 000 tonnes of paddy rice. Above-average precipitation and sufficient irrigation water availability are the main contributing factors to this year's good harvest. Aggregate cereal import requirement for the 2006/07 marketing year is estimated at about 110 000 tonnes, including 5 000 tonnes in food aid for refugees and vulnerable households. Imports include 100 000 tonnes of wheat and 10 000 tonnes of rice.

TAJIKISTAN (12 September)

Cereal harvesting is complete and latest reports estimate aggregate output at about 974 000 tonnes compared with 964 000 tonnes in 2005. This year includes some 750 000 tonnes of wheat, 112 000 tonnes of maize and 55 000 tonnes of paddy rice. The good harvest is mainly due to above-average precipitation and ample water availability in the rivers and reservoirs that feeds the extensive irrigation systems in the country. Aggregate cereal import requirement for the 2006/07 marketing year is estimated at about 271 000 tonnes including 265 000 tonnes of food-quality wheat. During the 2005/06 marketing year Tajikistan imported some 270 000 tonnes of cereals, mainly wheat.

TURKMENISTAN (12 September)

Latest reports indicate that cereal harvesting is complete and aggregate output is estimated at about 3.2 million tonnes, nearly 145 000 tonnes up on the 2005 harvest. This year's aggregate harvest includes some 3 million tonnes of wheat, 65 000 tonnes of barley, 110 000 tonnes of paddy rice and 50 000 tonnes of maize. The Government intends to export some 120 000 tonnes of wheat and import some 10 000 tonnes of high quality food wheat during the 2006/07 marketing year.

UZBEKISTAN (12 September)

Latest reports indicate that Uzbekistan has collected another bumper cereal harvest this year, estimated at over 5.5 million tonnes, some 183 000 tonnes down on the record harvest collected in 2005. This year's harvest includes some 5.14 million tonnes of wheat, 140 000 tonnes of maize, 180 000 tonnes of paddy rice and 90 000 tonnes of barley. Cotton is the most important industrial crop in the country and the Government has made significant efforts to increase yields and maintain area planted with cereals and cotton. The Government intends to export some 500 000 tonnes of wheat, and import 154 000 tonnes of high quality food wheat and 120 000 tonnes of rice during the 2006/07 marketing year.

LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN

CENTRAL AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN

COSTA RICA (19 September)

Harvesting of the 2006 first season cereal and bean crop is virtually completed under normal weather conditions, while in some areas planting of the second season crops just started. Output of the main paddy crop is estimated at low 225 000 tonnes as a consequence of the reduced planted area. The aggregate (first and second season crops) maize production is early forecast at average level of 13 000 tonnes. Production of cassava is officially forecast to increase from 59 000 tonnes in 2005 to 210 000 tonnes in 2006, following good price expectations at sowing time. However, large increases in plantings have prompted a sharp fall in prices. Current cassava farmgate prices of cassava at farmgate are only some 10 per cent of those in the same period of 2005, making completely unprofitable to harvest the crop or suitable just for animal feed.

Wheat imports for marketing year 2006/07 (July/June) are forecast at 220 000 tonnes, slightly above last year's level as a consequence of the higher domestic demand, while maize imports (principally yellow) should be high at more than 600 000 tonnes due to the increasing demand of the feed industry.

CUBA (8 September)

At the end of August, tropical storm "Ernesto" caused heavy rains especially in the Eastern portion of the island. No serious damages were reported, while reservoirs in the southern provinces that were suffering from drought have been replenished. Harvesting of the 2006 main paddy crop is about to start and production is expected to be about 500 000 tonnes, with a significant increase from last year production of only 370 000 tonnes that was affected by the limited availability of irrigation water. Rice import requirements for marketing year 2006 (January/December) are forecast at high 750 000 tonnes.

DOMINICAN REPUBLIC (19 September)

Harvesting of main 2006 paddy crop, which accounts for about 70 per cent of annual production, has been completed and aggregate output is early estimated at an above average level of 700 000 tonnes. Abundant precipitations in July and August benefited cereal and bean crops and resulted in higher yields. Wheat imports in marketing year 2006/07 (July/June) are forecast at 350 000 tonnes, while those of maize (entirely yellow maize for the poultry industry) stand at high 1.1 million tonnes as previous year.

EL SALVADOR (19 September)

Harvesting of the 2006 main first season maize and bean crops is practically completed and the output is anticipated to be good as a consequence of above average precipitation during the months of July and August. Normal rains during the first half of September, benefited the start of the second season crops planting. The international community continues to deliver food assistance, especially to chronically malnourished children and pregnant and lactating women in the poorest municipalities of the country.

GUATEMALA (19 September)

Intense seasonal rains in July have been affecting central departments of Quiche, Alta Verapaz and Izabal, causing floods and some localized damages to crops. Harvesting of the 2006 main season maize crop has been virtually completed and the aggregate output (main and second season) is expected to reach an average level of about 1 million tonnes. Maize production covers approximately 60 percent of domestic demand and import requirements in marketing year 2006/07 (July/June) are forecast at 650 000 tonnes, below the record level of about 700 000 tonnes in 2005/06. Wheat production is negligible, while its consumption is steadily increasing, setting

import requirements for 2006/07 marketing year at about 500 000 tonnes. Food assistance from the international community continues to be delivered to families still in temporary shelters in the 10 departments that were affected by the hurricane Stan in October 2005.

HAITI (8 September)

Harvesting of 2006 main season cereal crops is still underway and production prospects are favourable. Dry spells during March and April in some parts of southern departments of Grand'Anse, South and South-East caused a substantial delay in planting operations and, in several cases, re-planting was needed. However, abundant precipitations since the second decade of June had a positive impact on yields of maize and bean crops. The improved soil moisture has also favoured the ongoing planting of the 2006 second-season crops. Aggregate 2006 maize crop production is tentatively forecast at as above average level of 200 000 tonnes. By contrast, the irrigated paddy crop continues its declining production trend due to the reduction in plantings and yields as a result of the insufficient maintenance of the irrigation infrastructures in the key growing department of Artibonite. Paddy production in 2006 is expected at low 94 000 tonnes. Import requirements for marketing year 2006/07 (July/June) are anticipated at about 270 000 tonnes of wheat and 320 000 tonnes of rice. Despite some improvements since the presidential election in February, the overall security situation in the country remains fragile. The international community continues to provide food aid to more vulnerable groups, especially to pregnant and lactating women and children under 2 years in the North, West and North-East departments, as well as in the capital city.

HONDURAS (19 June)

The start of the rainy season has been characterized by abundant and continuous precipitations that caused landslides in some hilly areas around the capital city. Planting of 2006 main season cereal and bean crops just started and early forecast points to an average area planted under maize of about 334 000 hectares. Assuming normal weather conditions, production is tentatively forecast at 510 000 tonnes. Paddy production is expected to reach 21 000 tonnes the same level of the last two years. Wheat and maize import requirements in marketing year 2006/07 (July/June) are forecast at about 240 000 tonnes and 300 000 tonnes respectively, very similar to the previous year. Food assistance continues to be provided by the international community, in particular to families in municipalities with over 50 percent of chronic malnutrition.

MEXICO (11 September)

Widespread normal to abundant rains across the large growing southern and south central states of Jalisco, México, Michoacá, Chiapas and Puebla have continued to provide adequate moisture for the 2006 main rain-fed summer maize and sorghum crops, currently at developing stage. However, dry weather conditions have been reported in northeast states of Tamaulipas and Nuevo Leon, with some negative impact on yields of sorghum crop. Harvesting the summer maize crop is expected to start in October and output is forecast at an above average level of 16 million tonnes, similar to the good output obtained in last year's same season. Harvesting of the 2006 main paddy crop is about to start in key producing states of Veracruz and Campeche and aggregate production in 2006, which includes the output of the 2005/06 winter crop harvested earlier in the year, is tentatively forecast at 310 000 tonnes, similar to the good output of 2005. Land is being prepared for planting of the 2006/07 winter wheat crop in the irrigated areas of the northwest, where heavy rains at the beginning of September increased reservoir levels. Maize imports in marketing year 2006/07 (July/June) are forecast at 6.3 million tonnes, 6 per cent above previous year's high level, due to the expansion of the demand of the animal feed industry. Imports of wheat and sorghum are forecast at about 3.7 and 3.3 million tonnes respectively.

NICARAGUA (5 September)

Harvesting of the 2006 first season (primera) cereal and bean crops is virtually completed, while planting of the second season crop (postrera) has just started. Abundant precipitation, typical of the hurricane season is being reported over most of the country, with the exception of some western coastal areas that experienced limited soil moisture since August. Preliminary estimates of the Ministry of Agriculture indicate the that the first season maize production, which accounts for some 60 per cent of the aggregate annual production, will be similar to previous year's good level of about 360 000 tonnes. Import requirements in marketing year 2006/07 (July/June) are forecast

at 130 000 tonnes of wheat, 60 000 tonnes of maize and 120 000 tonnes of rice. Food assistance continues to be provided by the international community to the most vulnerable groups in Central and Northern Atlantic Regions, particularly to pregnant and lactating women and children under two years old.

SOUTH AMERICA

ARGENTINA (15 September)

Planting of the 2006 winter wheat crop was completed by the end of August and harvest of early planted crops is due from November. Despite some increase in the area planted in Cordoba, Santa Fe and Entre Rios, dry weather conditions in La Pampa and southeast Buenos Aires have prevented the achievement of the planned acreage of 5.9 million hectares; official estimates point to a planted area slightly below 5.4 million hectares, only some 3 per cent more than in the previous year. If precipitation resume in areas affected by dry weather and assuming average yields, 2006 wheat production is expected to reach 13.5 million tonnes which is above the reduced level of 2005 but still below average. Planting of 2006 barley crop has been recently completed and planted area is estimated at about 290 000 hectares. With some concerns for the limited soil moisture and cold weather conditions, planting of the 2007 maize crop has started in Santa Fe and Córdoba departments. Planting intentions point to 2.5 million hectares, an increase of 5 percent from the level of 2006, and early unofficial forecast put the 2007 maize production at about 17.5 million tonnes. This is well above the previous five years average of 16 million tonnes and about 20 per cent above the 2006 crop that was affected by reduced yields following dry weather.

BOLIVIA (12 September)

Harvesting of 2006 second season (winter) cereal crops, mainly maize and paddy, is underway under normal dry weather conditions and production is forecast about average and above the level of the last two years affected by dry weather conditions. Land is being prepared for planting the 2007 first season (summer) coarse grains, which will be harvested from next March. The country is self-sufficient in coarse grains and rice, but wheat production covers only about 20 percent of total utilization. Wheat imports in marketing year 2006/07 (July/June) are forecast at 400 000 tonnes, the same high level of 2005/06 reflecting the increasing demand of the past years. Food assistance continues to be provided by the international community to families affected by floods at the beginning of the year in Santa Cruz department.

BRAZIL (19 September)

Harvesting of the 2006 winter wheat crop has just started in Centre-South states and production is expected at a low level of 2.7 million tonnes. This outcome is due to lower plantings and yields. The area planted decreased sharply in response to low profitability of wheat in the past years, which has resulted in heavy indebtedness of farmers and lower use of fertilizers. Wheat yields have been negatively affected by dry weather conditions during the season in areas from northern Parana to Mato Grosso di Sul and Goias, as well as and by frosts at the beginning of September. Harvesting of the 2006 second-season maize crop (safrinha) is well advanced in Centre-South producing states and the output is expected at 10.7 million tonnes, an increase of about 34 per cent from last year's same season seriously affected by erratic rains especially in the key growing state of Parana. The aggregate 2006 maize output is provisionally estimated above 42 million tonnes, some 20 per cent more than in 2005. Maize exports in marketing year 2006/07 (April/March) should increase considerably from last year's low levels to 2.5 million tonnes. Harvesting of 2006 paddy crop has been recently completed in North and North-Eastern states and aggregate output (including the production obtained from February to May in Centre-Southern states) is estimated at average 11.5 million tonnes, about 13 per cent below previous year's record level.

CHILE (11 September)

Planting of 2007 winter wheat crop, to be harvested from December to March, has been virtually completed and early official estimates indicate an area planted of 315 000 hectares, very similar to the low level of previous year. Sowing of 2007 maize crop is expected to start at the beginning of

October in departments VI, VII and VIII and planting intentions point to 125 000 hectares, similar to 2006. Attractive domestic prices for oats crop are expected to result in an increase in 2007 planted area of about 10 per cent compared to 2006 and, assuming average yields, production may reach 430 000 tonnes. Cereal import requirements for marketing year 2006/07 (July/June) are forecast at 1.2 million tonnes of maize (mostly yellow maize), 750 000 tonnes of wheat and 80 000 tonnes of rice.

COLOMBIA (12 September)

Harvesting of 2006 first season cereal crops is well advanced, while in areas with adequate soil moisture land is under preparation for planting of the second season. The 2006 maize aggregate production (both seasons) is provisionally forecast at an average level of 1.3 million tonnes. By contrast, production of sorghum is expected at very low level of 205 000 tonnes as a consequence of reduced planted area. Paddy production, an important staple food in Colombian diet, is tentatively estimated at 2.6 million tonnes, very similar to previous years' above average output. Wheat and maize imports in marketing year 2006/07 are forecast at record levels of 1.3 million tonnes and 3 million tonnes respectively, reflecting the growing consumption of bread and pasta as well as the high demand for feed by the poultry sector. The international community continues providing food assistance in various parts of the country to internally displaced population, victim of the civil strife affecting the country.

ECUADOR (12 September)

Harvesting of the 2006 second-season paddy crop has started and this year's aggregate output is anticipated to be above 1.3 million tonnes, very similar to the good results obtained in previous two years. Harvesting of the 2006 summer maize crop (mainly white) is scheduled for October. Despite lower yields of the winter crop due to dry weather conditions in late 2005 and early 2006 and of subsequent heavy rains, the 2006 aggregate production of maize (white and yellow) is early estimated at average 680 000 tonnes. Parts of Los Ríos and Bolívar provinces have been severely affected by ash fall following the eruption of the Tungurahua volcano in mid-August. A preliminary assessment indicates that more than 100 000 persons have been directly affected by the disaster and that approximately one quarter of them is in immediate need of food assistance. Maize import requirements for 2006/07 marketing year (July/June) are forecast at average 400 000 tonnes, while imports of wheat are forecast at high 500 000 tonnes as a consequence of the increasing demand of the feed industry.

PERU (7 September)

Harvesting of the 2006 paddy crop is well advanced and production is early forecast at about 2.2 million tonnes, approximately 11 percent below last year's record output. This is due to reduced planted area, especially in the High jungle, in response to falling domestic prices following the bumper 2005 supply. The peak of the wheat crop harvest operations has been reached from June to August and the output collected is above that of 2005 for the same period. The harvest should continue through October and the 2006 wheat production is provisionally estimated at 190 000 tonnes, some 4–5 percent above the average of the past five years. Harvesting of the 2006 white maize crop has been virtually completed, while the yellow maize crop harvest is well advanced. Despite some reduction in plantings in the highlands, mainly white maize, due to inadequate soil moisture at the end of 2005, the 2006 aggregate maize production (white and yellow maize) is forecast at 1.2 million tonnes, just slightly below last five years average. Wheat and maize imports in marketing year 2006 (January/December) are forecast at about 1.6 and 1.3 million tonnes respectively.

URUGUAY (19 September)

Despite some delay due to localized excess of soil moisture, planting of the 2006 winter wheat and barley crops is virtually completed. Wheat plantings are officially estimated above 200 000 hectares, the highest acreage since 1997, while barley plantings are expected to reach 130 000 hectares, with an increase of about 70 per cent compared to previous year that was characterized by a low demand of the local beer industry. Wheat crop harvest is due to start by mid-November and, under normal weather condition, production is expected to be record with approximately 570 000 tonnes, that will guarantee an exportable surplus of about 120 000 tonnes. Planting of the

2006/07 summer maize crop is about to start and plantings intentions point to an area of 54 000 hectares, slightly above last year's level. In the north of the country, reduced rains and water reservoirs below their normal level for this time of the year may affect planting of 2006/07 important paddy crop that is due to start in October. If precipitations do not resume abundantly in September, total planted area with paddy may barely reach 140 000 hectares, well below the previous forecast of 175 000 - 180 000 hectares.

VENEZUELA (7 September)

Harvesting of 2006 summer maize crop is underway and production (essentially white maize for human consumption) is estimated at 2.1 million tonnes, similar to the good level obtained in last two years. This is mainly due to the abundant rains from May to July throughout the country that favoured crop development and yields. Harvesting of the irrigated summer paddy crop is underway and the 2006 aggregate output is tentatively forecast at 930 000 tonnes, about 4 percent less than the previous year's level as a result of a widespread invasion of rats that affected the winter paddy crop in the main growing state of Guarico in January. The country is traditionally self-sufficient in rice, while it entirely relies on imports to satisfy the growing domestic consumption of wheat. For marketing year 2006/07 (July/June) wheat import requirements are forecast at high 1.5 million tonnes and those of maize (mostly yellow maize for the animal feed industry) at 450 000 tonnes.

NORTH AMERICA, EUROPE AND OCEANIA

NORTH AMERICA

CANADA (20 September)

With the harvest of the bulk of the wheat crop in the main producing regions in western Canada virtually complete, latest official forecasts continue to point to a decrease in total wheat production in 2006, of about 3 percent. The reduction is due to sharp declines in both area and yield of durum wheat, production of which is now forecast to reach just 3.4 million tonnes, compared to almost 6 million tonnes in 2005. The reduction in the durum output is expected to more than offset an increase in production of other wheat.

The non-durum wheat area for harvest this year is estimated to be up by 17 percent, which would more than offset lower yields expected and could result in a crop of about 22.8 million tonnes, compared to 20.9 million tonnes last year. However, it is noted that the quality of all crops is above average, largely a reflection of the favourable conditions allowing a rapid harvest at the optimum time.

For coarse grains, latest indications point to a marginal decrease in the overall area, along with a significant switch to more oats and less barley compared to the previous year. With yields expected to return closer to average, as for wheat, the aggregate coarse grain output is forecast at some 23.6 million tonnes, nearly 8 percent down from last year.

UNITED STATES (15 September)

With the wheat harvest virtually complete by the end of August, the USDA's September Crop Report confirmed earlier estimates of an aggregate wheat output of about 49 million tonnes, 14 percent below the 2005 crop and well below the average of the past five years. An overall increase in plantings was more than offset by a sharp drop in yields following drought during a large part of the 2005/06 season. Planting of the winter wheat crop for harvest in 2007 was reported to be about 20 percent done as of mid-September. This is somewhat behind the average pace as fieldwork is hampered in some areas by wet fields, and in others by excessive dryness.

With regard to coarse grains, harvesting of maize was underway in the southern states as of early September. The area for harvest is estimated to be about 4 percent down from the previous year but better yields are expected, and output is forecast up marginally on last year's at 282.3 million tonnes, which would be the second largest crop on record after 2004. Crop conditions and yield

prospects improved across the northern Great Plains and the western Corn Belt in August following favourable rainfall. Output of other coarse grains is expected to decrease in 2006 after planted areas were reduced and also because smaller yields are forecast.

EUROPE

EU (26 June)

Total cereal production in the EU in 2006 is forecast at 269 million tonnes, which is 9 million tonnes higher than last year. The increase is mainly accounted for by France, Germany and Spain. Output of wheat is forecast to increase to 128.6 million tonnes, almost 4 percent up from last year's already above-average crop. In France, despite dry conditions at the beginning of the season, yields are expected to be higher than last year and, combined with an increased area, production is forecast to rise by about 5 percent to almost 39 million tonnes. In Germany, the wheat area has not changed significantly this year but despite an abnormally cold spring, which delayed crop development, higher yields are expected, and production is forecast to rise to 25 million tonnes, 5 percent up from 2005. Spain is also expected to harvest a larger wheat crop this year of about 6.2 million tonnes, which although somewhat down from earlier expectations, would still be well above last year's drought-stricken crop of just 3.8 million tonnes. Among the other major wheat producers, output is expected to change little in the United Kingdom, where forecast is to remain close to the five-year average at 14.7, but could drop again this year in Poland to about 8.3 million tonnes because of harsh winter conditions and a significant delay encountered with the spring wheat sowing campaign. Regarding coarse grains, the total EU output is forecast at 138.2 million tonnes, 4.6 million tonnes up from 2005. For barley, as for wheat, most of the increase is expected in France, Germany and Spain, partly due to increased areas and partly due to improved yields expected. The latter is most relevant in Spain where a significant recovery in yields of all cereals is expected after the severe drought-reduced levels last year. Maize production is not expected to change much in 2006. Slightly larger crops in France and Italy are likely to be offset by smaller harvests in Hungary and Germany.

ALBANIA (20 September)

Weather conditions for the 2006 cereal crops were generally satisfactory. Abundant rains in June allowed some recovery in crop conditions after the May dry spell and improved production prospects. Output of wheat, the main cereal crop, is estimated at around last year’s level and the average of the past few years at 260 000 tonnes. Imports of wheat would also remain close to last year’s level at about 390 000 tonnes, in order to meet normal utilization requirements of around 650 000 tonnes.

BELARUS (13 September)

Latest reports show that cereal harvesting has been completed and aggregate output is estimated at about 5.7 million tonnes, 250 000 tonnes down on last year’s good harvest. This aggregate includes over 1 million tonnes of wheat, about 1.8 million tonnes of barley, 1.6 million tonnes of rye and 625 000 tonnes of maize.

The aggregate cereal import requirement during the 2006/07 marketing year is forecast at about 695 000 tonnes, including 295 000 tonnes of wheat, 270 000 tonnes of maize and 110 000 tonnes of barley. Cereal exports in the same period includes 60 000 tonnes of rye.

BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA (19 September)

Latest reports show that cereal harvesting is nearly complete and aggregate output is estimated at just over 1 million tonnes, nearly 100 000 tonnes down from the five-year average harvest. This total includes 180 000 tonnes of wheat, 750 000 tonnes of maize and 55 000 tonnes of barley. Cereal import requirement for the 2006/07 marketing year is forecast at about 570 000 tonnes, including 40 000 tonnes in food aid. Total import requirements include some 400 000 tonnes of wheat, 150 000 tonnes of maize and 20 000 tonnes of barley.

BULGARIA (15 September)

The 2006 wheat harvest was virtually complete by the end of August, and based on results to that date, the total output by the end of the season is officially forecast to reach 3.2 million tonnes, 8 percent lower than last year's crop and below average but in line with expectations. However, for barley, contrary to earlier indications, the total crop (winter and spring) has increased 13 percent from last year to and estimated 547 000 tonnes.

Severe winter conditions destroyed some of the crop, prompting the reduction of the production forecast earlier in the year but the yield of the surviving area turned out better than expected. The area sown to maize in 2006 increased slightly but yields are not expected to match the bumper levels achieved last year and output may fall somewhat.

CROATIA (19 September)

Cereal harvesting is complete and aggregate output is estimated at 3.1 million tonnes, slightly up on the harvest last year. This aggregate includes 500 000 tonnes of wheat, 2.4 million tonnes of maize and 160 000 tonnes of barley. Total cereal exports during the 2006/07 marketing year are forecast at about 270 000 tonnes of mainly maize and cereal imports in the same period are estimated at 152 000 tonnes.

MOLDOVA (12 September)

Cereal harvesting is complete and aggregate output is estimated at nearly 2.3 million tonnes, some 250 000 tonnes down on the good harvest in 2005. Unfavourable weather conditions in winter compromised the wheat crop significantly and the total wheat output is now estimated at 700 000 tonnes, which is 350 000 tonnes down on the harvest in 2005. This year's aggregate cereal harvest also includes some 1.3 million tonnes of maize and 260 000 tonnes of barley. Aggregate cereal exports during the 2006/07 marketing year are forecast at 230 000 tonnes, which includes 55 000 tonnes of wheat, 80 000 tonnes of barley and 95 000 tonnes of maize. Moldova exported some 323 000 tonnes of cereals during the 2005/06 marketing year.

ROMANIA (15 September)

Confirming earlier expectations, the 2006 wheat production is estimated at 5.3 million tonnes, 27 percent down from last year's crop and about 10 percent below the five-year average. The reduction was largely a result of severe cold spells and extensive floods over the winter. However, it is reported that, contrary to last year, this year's harvest has a higher proportion of food-quality wheat, which is contributing to the increase in prices on the domestic market. It is estimated that of the total crop, about 3.5 million tonnes is fit for food consumption, which would more than cover the domestic needs for the year, and imports, if any, will be for fodder or seed. The maize harvest is reported to be underway as of mid-September. Official forecasts point to a crop of about 10 million tonnes, virtually unchanged from last year's output and close to the average of the past five years.

RUSSIAN FEDERATION (13 September)

Cereal harvesting is complete and aggregate cereal output this year is estimated at just over 71 million tonnes, more than 5 million tonnes down from last year's harvest. Severely cold weather and thin snow cover in winter compromised winter wheat significantly and aggregate wheat output, estimated at 41.5 million tonnes, is more than 6 million tonnes down from the 2005 harvest. Barley output is estimated at 17.2 million tonnes, rye at 2.8 million tonnes and maize at 3.3 million tonnes.

Total cereal exports in the 2006/07 marketing year are forecast at just over 9 million tonnes, some 3.2 million tonnes down on 2005/06. Aggregate exports include some 6.88 million tonnes of wheat and about 2.2 million tonnes of barley. The aggregate cereal import requirement during the 2006/07 marketing year is forecast at about 2.2 million tonnes, including just over 1 million tonne of food-quality wheat and 430 000 tonnes of rice.

Civil strife in Chechnya continues to disrupt social and economic activities. The conflict has displaced more than 300 000 people, 187 000 of whom are internally displaced, 30 000 live in Ingushetia and 9 000 live in Dagestan.

SERBIA (12 September)

Cereal harvesting is complete and aggregate output is estimated at just over 8 million tonnes, some 1.5 million tonnes down on the harvest in 2005. The lower than expected harvest is mainly due to harsh winter weather that reportedly damaged more than 5 percent of the winter cereals. The estimated cereal harvest includes some 1.8 million tonnes of wheat, 5.7 million tonnes of maize and 400 000 tonnes of barley. Cereal exports during the 2006/07 marketing year are forecast at about 405 000 tonnes and includes 100 000 tonnes of wheat, 280 000 tonnes of maize and 25 000 tonnes of barley. High quality food-wheat imports for the same period are forecast at about 110 000 tonnes, in addition to 10 000 tonnes of rice and 10 000 tonnes of barley.

UKRAINE (13 September)

Cereal harvesting in Ukraine has been completed and aggregate output is estimated at 34.5 million tonnes compared with 37.4 million tonnes in 2005. Harsh winter conditions compromised significant areas planted with winter cereals but favourable weather conditions in spring allowed some replanting and replenished soil moisture improving yields. Wheat was the most affected crop, output of which is down by about 5 million tonnes compared with 18.7 million tonnes harvest in 2005. The estimated harvest also includes some 12 million tonnes of barley (8.9 million tonnes in 2005) and 6.3 million tonnes of maize.

Aggregate cereal exports during the 2006/07 marketing year are forecast at 9.8 million tonnes, compared with about 13.2 million tonnes in 2005/06. This total includes some 2.9 million tonnes of wheat, 4.3 million tonnes of barley and about 2.5 million tonnes of maize.

OCEANIA

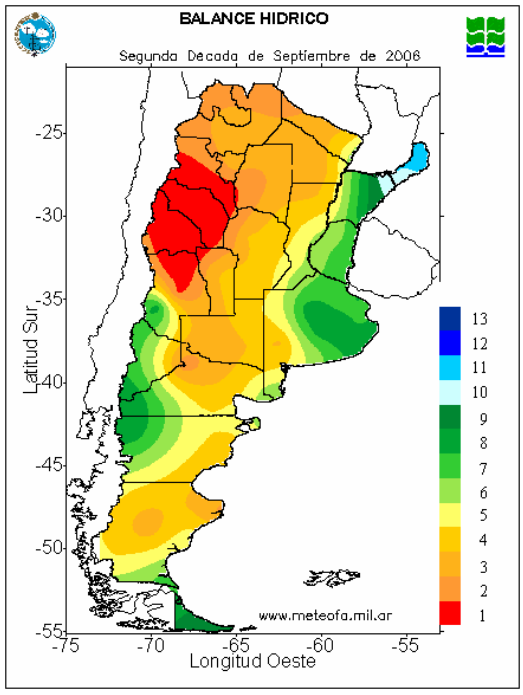
AUSTRALIA (22 September)

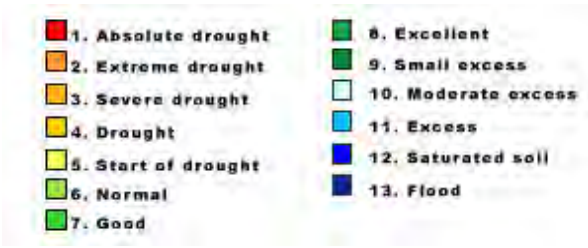
As the winter grain season progresses towards the start of harvest (about November in most parts), earlier predications of a drier than average winter cropping season in 2006 have materialized. Throughout most cropping regions crops have been stressed by lack of moisture, and in some parts this has been compounded by particularly hot temperatures. The latest official forecast for winter grain production released in the ABARE September Crop Report, has been revised downward sharply. Output of wheat in 2006 is now forecast at just 16.4 million tonnes, 35 percent down from last year and well below the five-year average. Output of barley is seen to fall by 41 percent to just 5.8 million tonnes. Early prospects for the summer cereals to be planted in the coming weeks are somewhat mixed. The sorghum area could be maintained about the level of last year as plenty fallow land is available in summer crop areas because of reduced winter plantings. However, good spring rains will be vital to allow planting to proceed and for crop establishment. The rice area is expected to decrease sharply in response to the reduced availability of irrigation supplies available after the dry winter.

Dry weather conditions are affecting agriculture and livestock sectors in Argentina

A prolonged drought is severely affecting the agriculture and livestock sectors in Argentina. Precipitation has been scarce since late July in north and north-western provinces (Santiago del Estero, Chaco, north Santa Fe, Salta, and Catamarca) and since the beginning of August in south-east and south-west Buenos Aires, La Pampa and centre-south Córdoba provinces. Light rains in the second decade of September in most parts of the country, were insufficient to reverse the drought situation.

In the north-western provinces of Catamarca, San Juan and La Rioja it has been reported that about 40 000 head of cattle have been lost due to poor pasture conditions, while many others are being sold or moved into other provinces with better pasture availability in order to avoid further losses. In the main cereal growing central provinces, where planting of the 2006 wheat crop was still underway in August, the dry weather conditions have prevented farmers from achieving the planned acreage of 5.9 million hectares, in particular in the south-west of Buenos Aires province and in the centre-west of La Pampa province.





The area planted to wheat is officially estimated at about 5.4 million hectares, only some 3 percent more than the record low of the previous year. By late September, about 30 percent of the wheat crop was suffering from water stress and high temperatures, while just over half is reported to be in good or very good condition.

The crop is due to be harvested from November and if substantial rains are not received soon, yields are likely to be reduced in several areas, mainly in the provinces of Córdoba, Santa Fe, Entre Ríos, Santiago del Estero, Chaco and north-west Buenos Aires. Based on the current condition of crops, wheat output in 2006 is tentatively forecast to reach at best 13 million tonnes, similar to last year's reduced crop and well below the good 2004 crop of 16 million tonnes and the average. However, should conditions worsen, the harvest could fall even lower.

The area that has not been planted to wheat is expected to be planted to 2007 summer crops, such as maize, sorghum and sunflower. However, the pace of planting, which normally starts in mid-September is very slow because of the exceptionally dry soils, and if precipitation does not resume in the next few weeks, the area planted to the 2007 coarse grains may substantially decrease. Weather concerns are also delaying planting of the 2007 paddy crop in the main growing provinces of Corrientes and Entre Ríos.

This situation will probably determine a shift in land use, where areas earmarked for summer coarse grain crops are turned over to soybean, which is planted somewhat later from November to January. In this case, the country's capacity to export cereals and meat products in the 2006/07 (July/June) marketing year would be reduced, while output of 2007 soybean could rise even further above the record output of 40.5 million tonnes obtained this year.

WFP/FAO/UNHCR Joint Needs Assessment – Burundi, Rwanda and Tanzania
18 March to 8 April 2006

Reclaimed land in Rwanda with Food For Work support

Meals prepared for Burundian returnees in a transit camp in the North of Burundi


WFP
World Food
Programme


F
A
O
FIAT PANIS


UNHCR
The UN Refugee Agency

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Executive Summary

The WFP/FAO/UNHCR Joint Needs Assessment (JNA) was undertaken at the request of the WFP Executive Board (EB) at its Second Regular Session in November 2005. The continuation of the Great Lakes Protracted Relief and Recovery Operation (PRRO) was to be informed by a robust needs assessment. This assessment was complemented by a review of coordination and management mechanisms and by a food production and market analysis to address key issues raised by the EB regarding the implementation of the regional PRRO and opportunities for local and regional procurement.

The massive movement of almost three million people triggered by the conflicts in Rwanda and Burundi in the early 1990s are still affecting the human and social condition of refugees living in camps in Tanzania, Burundi and Rwanda. The conflicts also impacted the resident population confronted by increased levels of poverty and food insecurity. Recently, the Governments of Rwanda and Burundi have made progress towards national reconciliation and economic recovery, although not at the same pace. Burundi has achieved political transition while Rwanda has advanced further, making rapid progress towards a post-recovery situation focusing on development activities. Tanzania still carries the burden of hosting the largest refugee caseload in Africa. WFP should adjust its programmes to changing needs.

In Burundi, a further shift is required from relief assistance for displaced people (refugees, internally displaced persons [IDPs] and returnees), malnourished children and severely food insecure people, to recovery activities for those whose livelihoods are affected by the enduring social and economic consequences of the conflict. According to the Comprehensive Food Security and Vulnerability Analysis (CFSVA), between 20 and 30 percent of households in some provinces of the North and North West are severely food insecure. These households, who barely consume one staple food per day (and oil and vegetables once or twice a week) and produce or have the means to purchase only 1,300 kilo calories per day, are highly dependent on food purchases. Their income comes from daily labour that permits them to purchase only 3,500 kcal for the entire family. There is also a high prevalence of wasting (8 percent) and very high prevalence of stunting (51 percent) among the children of these households.

WFP Burundi should focus on activities that primarily address the needs of severely food insecure people in four priority zones affected by chronic food insecurity and acute crises such as recurrent droughts and plant diseases (mainly Cassava Mosaic Disease). Relief interventions serve essentially as safety nets to avoid any further deterioration of the household food security and nutrition situation. They should be complemented by recovery activities that contribute to the sustainable improvement of community and household assets, including education. Approximately 500,000 people should receive a relief ration twice a year during the lean seasons. Relief is also to be provided to malnourished children and their families. Similar numbers of people require support through Food For Work (FFW), school feeding and Mother and Child Health (MCH) activities. In terms of resources, the proportion of relief should decrease from 42 percent in 2007 to 33 percent in 2008 (for a yearly total tonnage of approximately 75,000). The food security situation will be monitored regularly and the relief component may be scaled up in case of emergency.

In Rwanda, although economic recovery is clearly underway, the needs of the most vulnerable are not yet effectively addressed as reflected in progress made towards achieving the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) regarding poverty, hunger, child mortality and maternal health. Major factors affecting the most food insecure groups include: limited access to land, seasonal food insecurity associated with reliance on subsistence agriculture, recurrent drought

and a lack of buffer stocks (cassava has almost disappeared in some areas because of disease). Preliminary results of the Comprehensive Food Security Vulnerability Assessment (CFSVA) show that in the most food insecure districts, one third of people ate one daily meal while half of the children ate two meals or less (a quarter had one or no meals) the day before the survey. Single headed households with less than 0.1 ha of land or more than six family members are most prone to food insecurity.

In addition to humanitarian assistance to be provided to 42,700 refugees from DRC and Burundi (this will decrease as over 12,000 refugees repatriate in 2007 and 15,000 in 2008), WFP Rwanda should focus on protecting and strengthening livelihoods in the most food insecure households. Food For Work interventions are recommended in areas where cash interventions are not appropriate because of market access constraints and limited food availability, or when relevant funding is not available. Based on the vulnerability criteria, WFP has estimated that approximately 210,000 people need Food For Work in 14 priority food insecure provinces. The CFSVA results will be used to confirm and/or refine the intervention modalities, the number of beneficiaries and the targeting. The resource requirements are projected to decrease from 16,600 tons in 2007 to 13,700 tons in 2008.

In Tanzania, if the repatriation process for Burundian refugees takes off by mid-2006 and the outcome of the DRC elections is positive, the following repatriation planning figures may materialize: 110,000 will leave the camps in 2007 and 100,000 in 2008 with approximately 101,000 refugees remaining by 2009. These returnee movements will be closely monitored. Refugee mobility in Tanzania is restricted and refugees are not officially given access to land, labour or income generating activities outside the camps. They are therefore limited in their abilities to be self-reliant, which does not allow for the phasing out of food and non-food assistance. Host communities should continue to receive support for access to water and sanitation, health, nutrition and education- services that are made available to the refugees. The total requirements will decrease from approximately 50,000 tons of commodities in 2007 to approximately 28,000 tons in 2008.

Overall, this JNA recommends clearly targeted interventions to geographic areas and food insecure households and a shift from relief to recovery as refugees repatriate. As compared with the last Regional PRRO for the Great Lakes, the needs and resource requirements have been adjusted according to the changing context, and social and economic progress will determine WFP exit strategies and shift to development interventions in the medium-term.

In regards to local and regional procurement, the Great Lakes region has experienced recurrent drought periods resulting in reduced food production and substantial price increases. Recommendations are based on past trends and prospects.

Burundi has experienced a per capita food production decrease of 24 percent since 1993 due to household reduction in access to land and deteriorating productivity due to lack of inputs and technical support. Food stocks are inadequate, markets are not well integrated and food commodity prices have increased substantially since 2003. It is therefore not recommended to undertake local procurement beyond the 500 to 800 tons of palm oil purchased in the past. A more in-depth-market analysis will be done to inform potential for non-food interventions including cash responses.

Rwanda has also faced an unusual situation as erratic rains resulted in a deficit of 175,000 tons cereal equivalent after the last harvest of 2006. Markets are well integrated however, and when production and price levels for maize and beans are reasonable (and below import parity prices), local procurement could be carried out at the same level as in past years, i.e. 2500 tons. This can be increased as production and availability improves.

Though Tanzania is self-sufficient in staple crops of maize during normal years, drought occurred in most regions this year and production decreased by 50-70 percent in some parts of the country. The cereal deficit (mainly maize, sorghum, millet and rice) is nearly 400,000 tons. Surplus markets are not adequately supplying deficit regions, probably because of slack demand and high transport costs. Food prices have therefore been increasing steadily in those areas, while the supply situation has been exacerbated by exports to neighbouring countries. Still, Tanzania is a major regional food commodity supplier to WFP and once production and availability have recovered, WFP procurements in Tanzania should reach past levels of 40,000 tons/year.

The review of the management structure of the regional project approach concluded that, on balance, there were no net benefits in maintaining a regional approach. The situation has changed since 1995 and the particular context in each country now calls for separate country-based interventions. The flexibility afforded by a regional approach, particularly with regard to resource allocation, is no longer called for now that the environment in each country is more stable and movement of people across borders can be better planned and managed. Any future need to move resources can be readily accommodated within country-based projects. The majority of programmes in Rwanda and Burundi do not target refugees and returnees. They are instead focused on relief and recovery interventions for the resident population.

For future support requirements, donors tend to prefer high impact country specific projects over more general regional projects. The benefits of having a central management and technical support function in a regional project are not as evident and any efficiency gained is overridden by the benefits that would accrue from enhancing in-country capacities.

Recent political developments now call for a stronger collaboration with Government in the three countries, ensuring greater State ownership of interventions and strategies. Within each country, different challenges need to be addressed and both the Government and donors have moved into more coordinated strategic frameworks. A country-based approach in line with Government and donor priorities is therefore preferable.

Overall, separate country-based approaches are recommended, with the Regional Bureau moving towards its normal function: To provide strong and effective support and guidance rather than project management.

Acronyms

ARV	Anti-Retro Viral
CARE	Cooperative for Assistance and Relief Everywhere
CCA	Common Country Assessment
CFSVA	Comprehensive Food Security and Vulnerability Analysis
CFAM	Crop and Food Assessment Mission (Rwanda)
CFSAM	Crop and Food Supply Assessment Mission
CFSNAM	Crop, Food Supply and Nutrition Assessment Mission (Burundi)
CHW	Community Health Worker
CO	Country Office
CSB	Corn Soya Blend
CTC	Community-Based Therapeutic Care
CRS	Catholic Relief Service
DHS	Department of Health Survey
DOC	Direct Operational Costs
DRC	Democratic Republic of Congo
DSC	Direct Support Costs
EDPRSP	Economic Development and Poverty Reduction Strategy Paper
EFSA	Emergency Food Security Assessment
EMOP	Emergency Operation
FSIT	Food Security Information Team
FSMS	Food Security Monitoring System
FFT	Food For Training
FFW	Food For Work
GTZ	Gesellschaft für Technische Zusammenarbeit (German Technical Cooperation)
GVC	Grupo Volontario Civile
IDP	Internally Displaced Person
IFAD	International Fund for Agricultural Development
IFPRI	International Food Policy Research Institute
IGA	Income Generating Activities
IMC	International Medical Corps
IRC	International Rescue Committee
ISC	Indirect Support Costs
JNA	Joint Needs Assessment
LBW	Low Birth Weight
LTSH	Landside Transport Storage and Handling
MHA	Ministry of Home Affairs
MDG	Millennium Development Goal
MUAC	Middle Upper Arm Circumference
ODO	Office of Associate Director of Operations
ODK	Operations Desk (Regional Bureau) in Kampala (WFP)
ODMP	Programming Service (Programme Management Division)
ODOC	Other Direct Operational Costs
OEDE	Office of Evaluation
PRRO	Protracted Relief and Recovery Operation
PRSP	Poverty Reduction Strategy Paper
PSA	Programme Support and Administration
QUIBB	Questionnaire des Indicateurs de Base du Bien-être
RB	Regional Bureau
RWF	Rwandan Franc

SFP	Supplementary Feeding Programme
STD	Sexually Transmitted Disease
TFP	Therapeutic Feeding Programme
TSh	Tanzanian Shilling
UNDAF	United Nations Development Assistance Framework
UNIDO	United Nations Industrial Development Organization
VAM	Vulnerability Analysis and Mapping
WFP	World Food Programme
WINGS	WFP Information Network and Global System
WRS	Warehouse Receipt System

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Section 1. Assessment Objectives and Methodology

1.1 Background

The Great Lakes Regional PRRO 10062.2. was submitted to the Executive Board for approval in November 2005. This operation, comprising WFP Programmes in Burundi, Rwanda and Tanzania, supports food insecure and vulnerable populations, including refugees, returnees, IDPs and undernourished women and children. The Executive Board approved the operation for one year and requested WFP to undertake a Joint Needs Assessment (JNA) with UNHCR and other interested United Nations agencies and donors as the basis for planning assistance beyond the initial period covering 2006. The overall objective was to assess the need for, and scope of future food security programming in the Great Lakes region. It was carried out jointly with FAO and UNHCR. The findings and conclusions of the assessment inform the needs based interventions to be presented to the Executive Board at the Second Regular Session in November 2006.

The specific objectives of this JNA were to analyse the food security situation and identify needs on the basis of a review, verification and synthesis of the available information on:

- The current food security and nutrition situation in Burundi, Rwanda and Tanzania from regional and country-level perspectives;
- The estimated number of food insecure and malnourished people requiring food and non-food assistance;
- Identification of appropriate interventions, their timing and how they complement other non-food interventions; and
- Opportunities for recovery and long-term improvement in food security and nutritional status.

This assessment addressed the main issues as identified by the Executive Board: To assess WFP implementation strategy including transitional activities; clarify understanding of the condition of the affected populations, including the number of food insecure people; address resource implications and clarify proposed exit strategies.

1.2 Methodology

The JNA was carried out in three phases: Secondary data analysis, JNA field missions and Data Synthesis. Specific approaches were applied to each of them:

1.2.1 Secondary Data Analysis (Desk review)

The objective of the desk review (undertaken prior to field trips) was to analyze and consolidate available data and identify information gaps on the food security and nutrition situation of populations affected by post-conflict economic decline, structural changes in production patterns, crop failure and displacement in Burundi, Rwanda and Tanzania. Programme implementation issues were also reviewed to draw lessons learned for response options, targeting and programme recommendations.

The desk review provided inputs to issues to be addressed by the JNA during the field visits and key informant interviews with local authorities, United Nations agencies, donors, partners and beneficiaries.

As mentioned in the approved Great Lakes Region PRRO 10062.2, a number of documents and reports were prepared in order to assess the food security and nutrition situation of people affected by displacement, economic decline and drought in Burundi, Rwanda and Tanzania. The review and analysis of available information was based on policy and technical reports by relevant government ministries and analyses, surveys and assessments undertaken by WFP, other United Nations agencies and their partners. The detailed list of main documents consulted is attached in Annex 5.

It should be noted that during the desk review, the relevance and reliability of the information was critically assessed with regard to the level of confidence in the reports, the relevance of the methods used to collect and analyze the data, the geographic coverage and the variables and indicators used for the food security and nutrition analysis.

1.2.2 WFP/FAO/UNHCR JNA Mission

In accordance with the size and complexity of the programme and the availability of data, the duration of field work was determined by the Country Offices jointly with the Regional Bureau: eight days in Burundi, five days in Rwanda and three days in Tanzania. During the visits, substantial time was devoted to meeting with all relevant stakeholders. This included briefing and debriefing with WFP's major donors, United Nations agencies (UNHCR, FAO, UNICEF and OCHA), national authorities at ministerial level, international aid planning and coordinating entities, technical line ministers and NGO cooperating partners in agriculture, food security and nutrition.

Considerable time was also dedicated to meeting with Programme and Vulnerability Analysis and Mapping (VAM) staff. Discussions with staff covered document review, lessons learned from implementation of various interventions, and existing or potential collaboration with partners to provide complementary technical and non-food support. They were used to formulate recommendations on targeted geographic zones, population groups, number of beneficiaries, food and non-food response options and interventions.

In each country, between one and one and a half days were dedicated to field visits and key informant interviews of refugees in camps, returnees during repatriation exercises, participants in FFW schemes, farmers, and staff and patients in nutrition centres in addition to discussions with local authorities and partners. A detailed programme of sites visited and persons met is attached in Annex 4.

1.2.3 Synthesis assessment report

The information from the secondary data analysis, the review of documents during the country visits, the interviews and meetings with stakeholders, key informants and technical staff was triangulated and cross-checked. This allowed the team to determine the impact of different factors (e.g. displacement, economic deterioration, recurrent drought and structural problems related to land access, agriculture inputs and services) on household income, expenditure structure, purchasing power and nutrition status.

Based on the desk review and field visits in each country, findings were shared with donors in Burundi, Rwanda and Tanzania and at regional level in Nairobi. A draft report was written for further review and finalization in order to inform the design of the next project phase.

1.3 Parallel reviews

As recommended by the Board, complementary reviews were undertaken to address issues on the management and coordination mechanisms at regional level and provide more detail on local and regional procurement opportunities.

1.3.1 Food production and market analysis

A food production and market analysis was undertaken in conjunction with the JNA. The findings and recommendations on local and regional procurement from this analysis are integrated in this report. This analysis was conducted jointly by the Regional Bureau and FAO. Available data and literature on agricultural production, consumption, trade, prices and marketing patterns of major cash and food crops were reviewed. The analysis focused on marketing policies, inflation and exchange rates and their relationship to the macro economy.

Information was collected through semi-structured interviews with key informants, (producers, traders, processors and agriculture authorities). Stakeholders in food procurement such as WFP, NGOs, government officials, traders and farmers were consulted. In addition to providing recommendations on local and regional procurement, the analysis determined the feasibility and implications of cash responses as safety nets for food insecure people in the three countries.

1.3.2 Review of coordination and management mechanisms

The coordinating role of the WFP Regional Bureau was also evaluated by a management review. This exercise was intended to confirm the validity of the management and coordination structure proposed in the project summary and evaluates options for decentralizing operational management.

This review was based on two evaluations of the PRRO undertaken in 2001 and 2005, lessons learned as well as key informant interviews with government authorities, United Nations partners and WFP staff in Country Offices and the Regional Bureau. Specific issues addressed included: Management flexibility, optimization of support, allocation of resources, advocacy, funding, consistency of the regional model and coherence with in-country strategies. The review was led by the WFP Operations Department. The findings and recommendations from this review are presented in this report.

Section 2: Burundi Joint Needs Assessment

2.1 Background

Since 1992, the Great Lakes Region has been marked by major conflicts in Burundi, Rwanda and the Democratic Republic of Congo. In Burundi, the democratic process initiated by President Buyoya, with a new constitution and multiparty system, led to general elections in 1993. Melchior Ndadaye won the election with the support of the *Front pour la Démocratie au Burundi* (Frodebu). However, the Burundian army staged a coup and killed the President in October 1993. This was the starting point of a conflict that caused the death of up to 100,000 people. More than 500,000 Burundians fled to Tanzania. A power-sharing agreement between the Government and opposition in September 1994 was rejected. These events led to 12 years of continuous internal ethnic conflict.

The decade-long civil war has had a detrimental impact on the economy. The Gross Domestic Product (GDP) per capita fell from $180 in 1993 to $110 in 2003. According to the latest United Nations Development Program (UNDP) Human Development Report for 2004, Burundi is ranked as the third poorest country in the world. About 60 percent of the population lives below the poverty line (on less than $1 per day). Adult literacy is 59 percent and net primary school enrolment was estimated at 57 percent in 2002, lower than the 70 percent estimate from the late 1980s. Health expenditures are among the lowest in the world (US$19 per person per year). Conflict, displacement and increasing poverty has negatively affected access to medical care and increased malnutrition and economic vulnerability.

In 2005, the total population was estimated at 7,636,884 persons[1]. This is an increase of one million people since 2001. Burundi has the second highest population density in Africa - about 250 inhabitants per square km. This figure rises to more than 400 inhabitants per square km on arable land. Average farm size is only about 0.7 ha, while forty percent of households in the central plateau have access to only 0.4 ha. Population density results in strong competition for natural resources, mainly on arable land upon which most people rely on for their livelihood: over 90 percent of the population depend on subsistence farming, which contributes to less than half the total GDP.

Economic policy is guided by a programme of action for the period 2005-2010, complemented by an emergency plan that is designed to assist vulnerable groups to overcome the impact of the crop failures in 2006. As of 2007, a Poverty Reduction Strategy Plan (PRSP) will aim to reduce poverty by stabilizing the economy and promoting recovery, by raising the GDP growth in real terms by a minimum of 5 percent per year and reinforcing or improving access to public services.

The Arusha Peace process initiated in Tanzania in 2000, led to a political transition that culminated in August 2005 with the election of Pierre Nkurunziza, leader of the former main Hutu rebel group CNDD-FDD (*Conseil national pour la défense de la démocratie – Forces pour la défense de la démocratie*). These elections were supported and supervised by the United Nations and the donor community. The fact that this party dominates the government, the National Assembly and Senate, contributes to political stability.

Another rebel faction, the *Forces Nationales de Libération* (FNL) rejected the legitimacy of the Government however, and sporadic fighting continued around the capital, Bujumbura and in

[1] Source : "Projet d'appui à la Politique Nationale de Population" (PNP).

surrounding provinces. A peace agreement between the FNL and the Government was achieved recently with Tanzanian mediation. It will now have to be enforced.

2.2 Population movement

Table 1: Burundi Refugee/ IDP figures 2006

Refugees	10,000 Congolese refugees 19,000 Rwandan asylum seekers
IDPs	117,000
Burundian Repatriates (2002-2005)	368,000

2.2.1 Refugees, migrants and repatriation

As of April 2006, Burundi hosts around 10,000 Congolese refugees living in two camps (Gasorwe and Gihinga). They originate primarily from South-Kivu. If the elections take place as foreseen in July 2006, UNHCR plans for the repatriation of 2,000 Congolese refugees in 2006.The prevailing situation has left the refugees dependent on external assistance for their survival as access to agricultural activities and other economic opportunities are limited.

Beside the Congolese, Burundi hosts about 19,000 Rwandese asylum seekers mainly from the Butare district in Rwanda who have crossed the border. The initial influx in early 2005 may have been prompted by political misinformation, a politically sensitive environment including a unity/reconciliation process using open-air village courts and reactions of mistrust in a context of economic reforms applied with insufficient information. In terms of the later arrivals in 2006, food insecurity due to drought that affected the season 2006A[2] harvest may be one additional reason for the influx. The refugee status determination undertaken by UNHCR and the Burundian Government is under way but is a lengthy process, which will not be finalized before end of 2006 or beginning of 2007. The results so far have shown that less than 10 percent of the caseload may be eligible.

2.2.2 Returnees

Positive political developments in Burundi contributed to the return of some 300,000 refugees mainly from Tanzania between 2002 and 2004 through facilitated repatriation supported by UNHCR. In 2005, over 68,000 Burundians repatriated, though the pace slowed down before June, prior to the presidential elections and then increased again in August.

Table 2: Estimated Refugee, returnee and asylum seeker caseloads for Burundi (2006-2008) [3]

Assisted Caseloads	01/2006	Departures (Voluntary repatriation)	01/2007	Departures (Voluntary repatriation)	01/2008	Departures (Voluntary repatriation)	01/2009
Congolese refugees in camps	10,000	2,000	8,000	3,000	5,000	3,000	2,000
Rwandan Asylum Seekers	19,000	9,000	10,000	5,000	5,000	3,000	2,000
Burundian Returnees		55,000		80,000		40,000	

[2] September-November 2005.

[3] These figures do not take into account population growth. Repatriation figures have to be taken with caution, in particular for 2008. They will be adjusted to actual population movements.

2.2.3 Internally displaced persons

The number of internally displaced people (IDPs) decreased substantially from over 145,000 in April 2004 to 117,000 in April 2005, the number of IDP sites also decreasing from 170 to 160. Almost 60 percent of the displaced population is settled in the North and Central provinces and half of those households are headed by women. Over 90 percent rely on agriculture while 74 percent still have access to their own land, though the plot size and yield are insufficient to ensure self-sufficiency. Only one third of the IDPs were willing to return to their places of origin, mainly those coming from the Southern provinces. Security is the main issue for the IDPs and most of those settled in the Central and Northern provinces have decided to remain on the sites where they have lived for over 10 years. Security also determines the time spent in the fields.

Agriculture remains their main source of income although disparities exist between IDPs in the Central and Northern provinces who have insufficient income to cover their basic needs as compared to those settled in the South who rely on various activities, including cash crops and trade. Though the IDPs do not receive specific attention anymore, they may be targeted for assistance based on their vulnerability.

2.2.4 Refugee food access

As a result of inadequate resources, assistance to the refugees did not meet recommended food and non-food requirements, though their situation was better than for other groups assisted with food in the country. WFP rations have averaged 1,994 Kcal/person/day for a recommended ration of 2,100 Kcal. A lasting solution is still on hold as there are no immediate foreseeable prospects for facilitated and/or organized voluntary repatriation while the security situation in DRC remains volatile.

Notwithstanding the distribution of a 2,000 kcal/person/day ration, the general food security situation of refugees within the camps continues to be a problem. About 5-15 percent of refugees in Gihinga and 20-30 percent of refugees in Gasorwe remain food insecure and/or chronically vulnerable[4].

Various means of sustaining livelihoods within the camps were implemented but due to management problems and lack of resources, most attempts were unsuccessful. Livestock ownership has been reduced and agricultural production activities in areas surrounding the refugee camps seem to have declined. Access to land constitutes a serious problem for the local population and returnees and there are no possibilities to obtain land for refugees from the private owners surrounding Gasorwe camp.

Except for refugees belonging to food secure households (around 10 percent of households) who have access to contract work with NGOs, engage in petty trading and other income generating activities, the main source of income is the sale of food aid. Vulnerable households (almost a third) rely on this, while the most food insecure have no alternative sources of income. They are fully reliant on food aid for their food source/consumption.

2.2.5 Repatriation: Provision of a returnee package

Upon arrival, Burundian returnees receive a package containing 3-month food ration per person. The UNHCR monitoring process has reported several times that the food component is usually shared with the host family or community pending their settlement and does not last more than a month. The 3-month food ration meant to allow the returnees to catch up with the next harvest season -if they come during the lean season- does not therefore seem to be sufficient. The

[4] Source: WFP/UNHCR Joint Assessment Mission of the Congolese Refugees in Burundi, 27-30 June 2005.

needs of the returnees should be re-assessed in order to adjust the support they require for their integration process and to ensure the sustainability of the repatriation.

UNHCR assists the returnees with shelter and housing materials. Forty five thousand returnee households benefited from seeds and fertilizer from FAO during the 3 harvest seasons in 2005 but have been negatively affected by the erratic rains and drought experienced in the north and east of the country towards the end of the year. Support was also provided in swamp rehabilitation and for income generating activities, such as fishing.

2.3 Food availability and markets

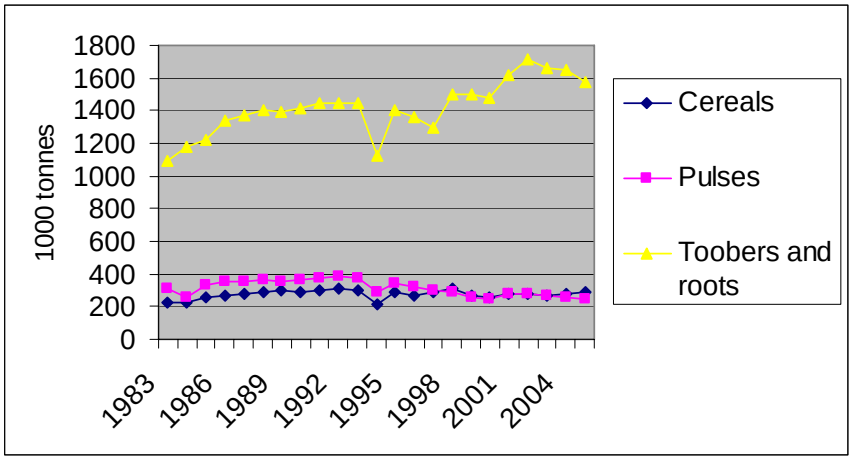
2.3.1 Food production and supply

Food Production and Supply in Burundi is characterised as follows:

- From 1993-2005, annual production of cereals (maize, sorghum, rice and millet), and legumes and pulses decreased by 10-13%. Roots and tubers production increased by 11%. This resulted in a decline in the quality of diet, as toots and tubers have lower nutritional value;
- Per capita food production has decreased by 24% since 1993;
- Levels of food stocks are inadequate;
- CFSNAM forecasts a national deficit of 388,000 metric tons of cereal equivalent for the current marketing year.

While aggregate food production has slightly increased since the 1993 conflict, the overall composition of the commodities has changed significantly. The increase in production of roots and tubers is mainly due to the expansion in sweet potato production. Cassava production has declined due to outbreaks of the cassava mosaic virus.

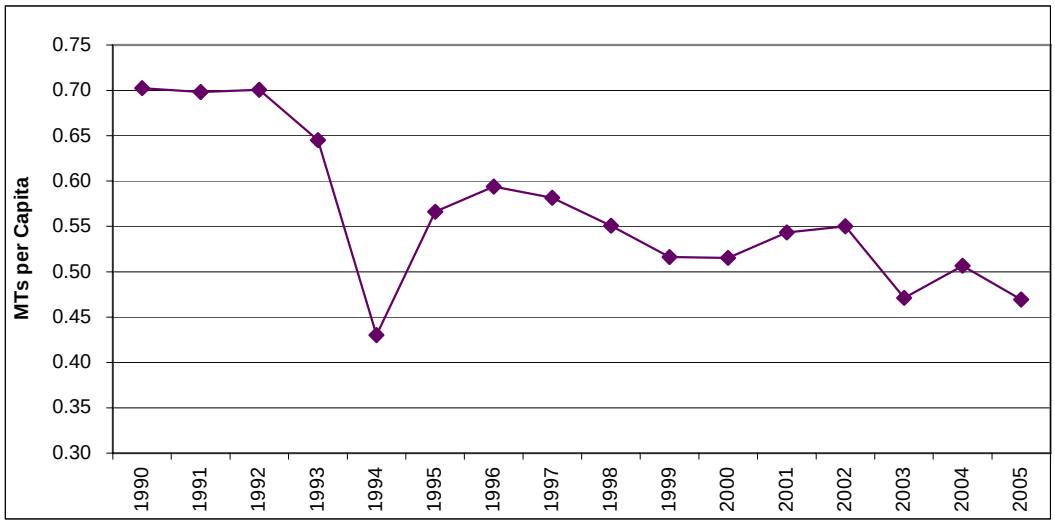
Figure 1: Burundi Food Production 1983-2004



Source: Joint CFSAM

The population has increased by 24.5 percent or nearly 2 million between 1993 and 2005. With decreasing cultivable land sizes, per capita food production declined by 24 percent since 1993. Per capita production of legumes, pulses and cereal decreased by about 40 percent, while outputs of roots, tuber and banana dropped by 20 percent (Figure 2).

Figure 2: Per Capita Food Production for Burundi (1990-2005)



Source: Ministry of Agriculture

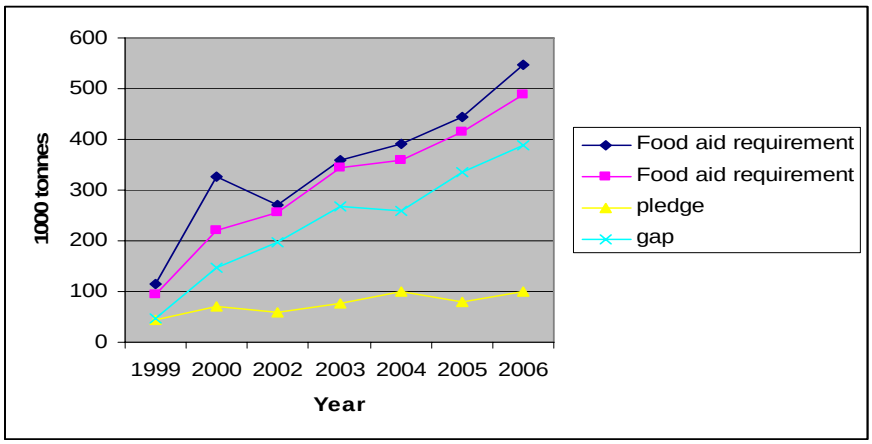
The shift in the composition of the food economy can be attributed to several factors: the effects of the conflict and recent droughts, exacerbated by other factors such as poverty and HIV/AIDS. Poor technology, lack of appropriate inputs, particularly high yielding seed varieties and fertilizers, weak agricultural support services and government policy has not been supportive to food production and has led to low productivity and declining soil fertility.

Crop pest and disease prevalence (cassava mosaic disease and taro fungus) has increased since 2003, significantly reducing crop production, particularly in northern Kirundo and Muyinga provinces. The impact of this on food security is important due to the major role that cassava plays in the diet of the population[5]. Moreover, recurrent erratic rainfall (quantity and distribution) has reduced crop yields of cereal and pulses. The low altitude Bugesera and Moso agro-ecological zones have been most affected by erratic rainfall. Another recurrent climatic hazard is hail. Hail has affected season A over the past 4-5 years, while season B production has been quite stable over the same period.

Since 1999, the Government of Burundi, jointly with FAO, WFP, UNICEF and other organizations has regularly carried out Crop Food Supply and Nutrition Assessment Missions (CFSNAM) twice a year. CFSNAM data indicates a steady increase in the food gap[6] since 1999, reflecting stagnant domestic food production and high population growth. Although food gap projections during CFSNAMs may be overestimated, (especially as the significant informal cross-border trade with DRC and Tanzania is not considered), the steep increase in estimated uncovered deficit may indicate a drop in per capita food consumption in recent years (Figure 3). The 2006A assessment predicted a national deficit of 388,000 metric tons of cereal equivalent for the current marketing year.

[5] Cassava accounts for about 60-70 percent of Burundian diet and 27 percent of calorie intake, according to the last CFSNAM report.
[6] In general, food gaps are calculated using one of the following two consumption targets: 1) maintaining base per capita consumption, or status quo, which is the amount of food needed to support average level of par capita consumption in previous years, and 2) meeting nutritional requirements, which is the gap between availability and food needed to support a per capita nutritional standard. The Burundi CFSNAM uses the nutritional benchmark of 2100 kcal a day.

Figure 3: Burundi Food Gap



Source: Ministry of Agriculture

In addition to weather conditions, the development of the cassava mosaic virus will determine the food security in Burundi in the next 2-3 years. The Government with FAO, the Catholic Relief Service (CRS) and several other partners, launched a CMD-resistant cassava-cutting program in 2004/05. The objective of the program is to distribute a new resistant variety to all farmers by September 2008. Until then, the food security situation for the most vulnerable will remain fragile.

2.3.2. Markets and food price developments

Markets and Food Prices in Burundi have been characterised by:

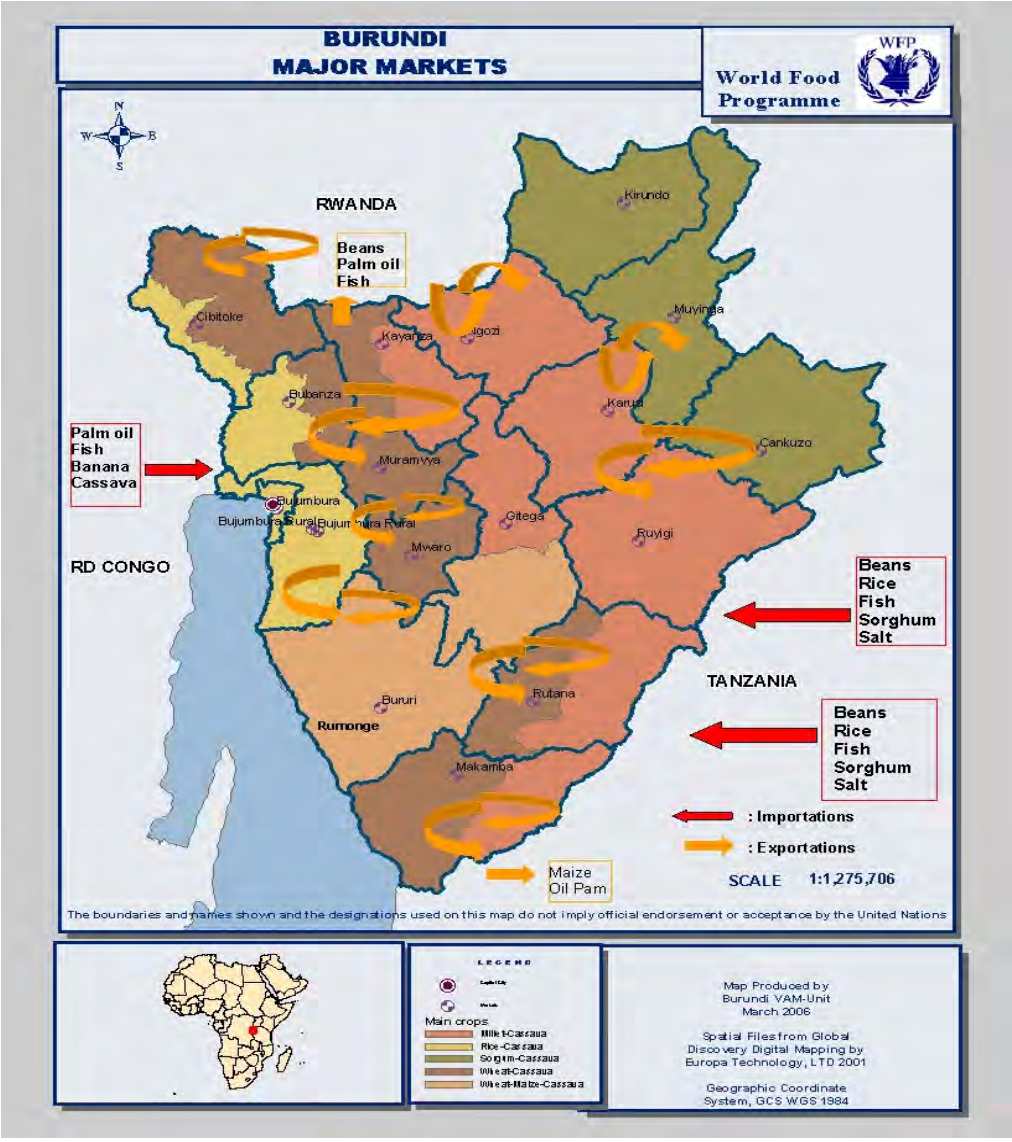
- Poorly integrated markets due to high transaction costs, poor infrastructure and insecurity contribute to food shortages;
- Lower market demand due to high food prices and inflation rates and hence low purchasing power over the last two years;
- Slow market turnover and thin markets;
- Food prices higher compared to last two years due to decreased production and supply.

High transaction costs and poor road infrastructure result in the poor integration of Burundi's food markets. The country has been exposed to periodic food shortages since 1993. Inaccessibility due to insecurity in some regions, especially Bujumbura Rural Province, has further aggravated the inefficient functioning of markets. Market demand tends to be unpredictable but is generally low because of reduced rural income due to insufficient food production. During the first quarter of the year, the majority of markets were experiencing slower turnover and volumes of food were less than normal (according to trader interviews). The low purchasing power may be offset in part by income from the coffee harvests soon to occur.

Market prices show strong regional variations. Prices of beans, sweet potatoes and cassava increased steadily since 2003, and more than doubled by 2005 in the provinces of Ngozi, Kirundo, Muyinga, Gitega and Ruyigi. In Bujumbura where commodity prices are more stable, prices have shot up since October 2004. For example, the price of cassava flour, which has been stable around 450 Burundian Francs (FBU) per kg from July 2002 to September 2004, increased steeply and reached 650 FBU per kg by December 2005. The map below shows the major markets in Burundi and the production catchment regions that they serve. Burundi can be

categorized into five major crop production zones: millet/cassava; rice/cassava; sorghum/cassava; wheat/cassava; and wheat/maize/cassava.

Figure 4: Map of Major Markets in Burundi



Kirundo, Muyinga and Cancuzo markets serve the northeastern sorghum/cassava-growing zone. Most of the sorghum and cassava produced in this region is marketed within this region and to the neighboring millet/cassava region.

A strip from the north to central and southern parts is the millet/cassava growing zone. This zone borders Rwanda in the north and Tanzania towards the southeast. Major markets in this zone are Kayanza and Ngozi in the north and Karuzi, Gitega and Ruyigi in the central and southeast. In addition to local trade within Burundi, there is cross-border trade with Tanzania (imports of

beans, rice, fish, sorghum and salt and exports of maize and palm oil) and with Rwanda (cassava flour from Uganda that transits via Rwanda).

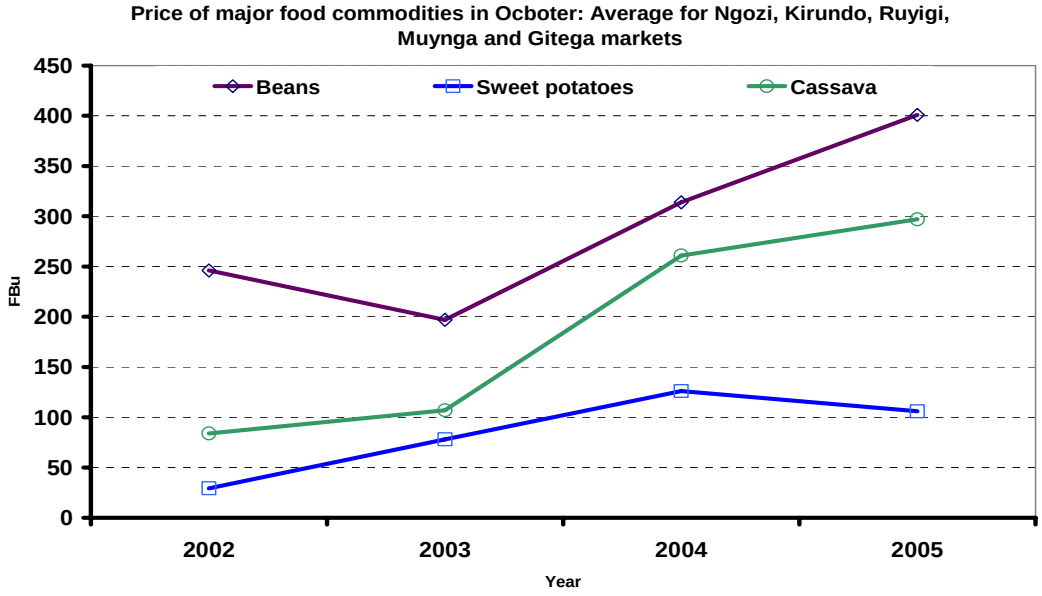
Two disjointed areas (a strip from the northwest to central Burundi and a smaller strip in the south) form the wheat/cassava-growing zone. The markets of Citiboke, Bubenza, Muranvya and Mwaro markets serve the northern strip whereas the southern strip is served by Rutana and Makamba markets. There is local and cross-border trade with Rwanda and Tanzania.

The western and central wheat/maize/cassava growing zone has Bururi as its major market. This zone borders Lake Tanganyika and DRC Congo.

The final zone is the rice/cassava zone that forms a small strip in the west and borders Lake Tanganyika and DRC Congo. The major markets in this zone are Bujumbura, Bubenza and Citiboke. There are imports of palm oil, fish, bananas and cassava from DRC Congo to this region that continue on transit to the rest of Burundi.

The price differential between Bujumbura and the interior of the country suggests poor market integration. Higher purchasing power and effective demand in Bujumbura means that markets are better supplied with domestic produce (the bulk of food supply) and imports from DRC and Tanzania. Beans and rice from Tanzania, cassava flour and bananas from DRC, and cassava flour and maize from Uganda, transported through Rwanda, has been observed by the JNA mission in several markets across the country. According to traders interviewed in Gitega, Ngozi, Ruyigi and Bujumbura, the prices of most staples were still high compared to the same period last year, in spite of the Government decision to reduce taxes on food imports and the recent strengthening of the Burundian Franc.

Figure 5: Major Food Prices in Burundi (October 2005)



Source: Ministry of Agriculture

Burundi has experienced high inflation over the past three years due mainly to the decline in domestic food production. According to the Economist Intelligence Unit, consumer price inflation

(driven mainly by the price of food commodities) shot up from -1.4 percent in 2002 to 16 percent in 2005 (Table 1). This has led to significantly lower purchasing power for the majority, particularly those most food insecure.

Table 3: Burundi Inflation Rates

	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005
Inflation (%)	9.2	-1.4	6.1	12.6	16

Source: Economist Intelligence Unit

2.3.3 Options for food procurement

The analyses of food production, supply and markets and price developments have indicated that production of cereals and legumes has decreased. The analyses have shown that there are inadequate levels of food stocks. Current forecasts show a national deficit of 388,000 metric tons of cereal equivalent for the current marketing year.

Additional assessments on storage, transport facilities and capacity of traders to provide food of required standards for procurement were carried out. Key findings have shown that adequate storage and transport facilities are available. Milling facilities are limited to only one plant with the capacity to process 100 tons/day.

A commodity that has gained importance since 1972 is palm oil. Palm is grown during the two seasons of April to June and September to January mainly in southern and some northern parts of the country. Annual production of palm oil is 21,000 MT (metric ton) out of which only 15-20% is transformed (extracted/refined) industrially. Most of the oil is extracted traditionally. Industrial extraction rates are about 18-21% whereas traditional means extract 14-15%. Though overall production has increased, yields have decreased from 20 tons to 6 tons per acre in the period 1986-2006, due to conflict, lack or limited use of fertilizers, poor preservation of plantations, outbreak of crop diseases such as the Ganoderma fungus, poor irrigation facilities, and farmers' inability to purchase imported seedlings.

2.3.4 Recommendations

- Given the national food deficit and that markets are not functioning well, market interventions are not recommended in Burundi for the next two years except for the purchase of palm oil;

- Food availability analyses indicate a deficit of 338,000 MT of cereal equivalent in the current marketing year. While higher because of drought, this follows a consistent pattern of deficits in Burundi. Local purchase of cereals and beans is therefore not recommended. As the supply of cereals and legumes is not likely to increase in the foreseeable future, any purchase of maize and/or beans in a normal harvest season will require careful review;

- Palm oil could be purchased locally in incremental amounts each year, reaching between 500-800 MT by the second year. Further studies would be needed before expanding beyond this recommended amount, as WFP should take care not to overstretch the capacity of producers nor displace their commercial market. The procurement tendering process will require that there be at least three producers meeting the following conditions: palm oil must be fully refined and produced as per WFP specifications, and prices should be competitive to import parity prices and international purchases.

- Improved communication and deliberate collaboration and cooperation with government and other organizations involved in local food procurement is recommended, so that market interventions can be appropriately managed and monitored.

The following recommendations apply to all three countries:

- **WFP should consider making direct purchases from farmer groups;**
- **Increased communication and information sharing on procurement with government and other organizations (international and local institutions);**
- **Communicate with donors on the status of markets in terms of prices and food availability and provide recommendations for local purchases;**
- **Conduct detailed local market surveys on prices and availability prior to purchase.**

2.4 Household food access and livelihoods

2.4.1 Household chronic food insecurity aggravated by recurrent drought

Conflict-related violence is no longer the main cause of household food insecurity in Burundi, with the exception of few pockets in Bujumbura Rural and surrounding provinces where insecurity remains a concern.

Other factors, including persistent levels of extreme poverty, limited livelihood alternatives, high reliance on domestic production, decreasing yields due to insufficient inputs and recurrent climatic and plant disease related shocks affecting food production, result in continuous food insecurity.

Profile of a **Severely Food Insecure Household** in Burundi:

- Barely consume a staple food per day
- Mean production and purchase capacity is around 1,300 kcal per person per day (CFSVA)
- Over 50 percent of children are stunted
- High dependency on temporary work and manual labour for income
- As a response to shock these households are the most likely to modify their eating habits or work for food
- High dependency on food purchases
- Current daily labour wage purchases < 3,500 kcal (less than half of family food needs)
- High disease burden worsens food security status

The analysis of food access is another important component of the food security analysis. Most available data that allowed the analysis of food access at household level are derived from the 2004 CFSVA. Provisional data from the first rounds of the FSMS are also available.

2.4.2 Diversity and frequency of food consumption

According to the 2004 CFSVA, staple foods most frequently consumed (more than 5 days/week) by households are pulses, oil, cassava, and sweet potatoes/tubers. Other commonly consumed foods are cassava leaves, fish, vegetables, corn, and rice. It appears that many households in Burundi rely on a variety of starch staples, mainly coupled with pulses, followed by other foods, particularly fish in areas near Lake Tanganyika.

A Principal Components Analysis was used to classify households into homogeneous food consumption typologies. The following variables were analysed:

i. frequency of consumption of staple and non-staple foods such as pulses, meat, vegetables and fruits;
ii. sources of each food item consumed (e.g. purchased, own production, food aid, etc.);
iii. share of household expenditure for food and other basic needs (e.g. health, education, etc.); and
iv. share of expenditure for individual food items.

Based on this methodology, six distinct groups of households were identified and characterized by their food consumption level, source of food and livelihood patterns:

- The resulting findings indicated that sixteen percent of the population sample were experiencing poor dietary diversity and had difficulties in meeting their needs at the time of the survey. Their access to income and agricultural production was limited. They were the most severely affected by food insecurity;

- Other population groups were characterized by various levels of borderline food security and vulnerability to shocks in decreasing order of significance (three consumption groups representing respectively 19, 32 and 17 percent of total sample);

- 16 percent of the total household sample was defined as food secure.

2.4.3 Household income

Despite the importance of the agriculture sector, food production is not the only source of income for a large part of the population. The sale of cash crops contributes 65-70 percent of the household total income, and is commonly mentioned as the primary income source. Most common cash crops are coffee and palm oil. Rice, cassava, sorghum and banana (for beer brewing) are also commonly grown for commercial purposes. One-third of the households rely on only one source of income indicating their reduced capacity to handle shocks. The highest percentages are found in the provinces of Kirundo and Muyinga.

In addition, a number of households rely on activities that are likely to provide irregular income throughout the year. Thus, in Karuzi, Kirundo and Muyinga provinces, households tend to rely on temporary work for more than 80 percent of their total income.

2.4.4 Food and non-food expenditures

The largest household expense is spent on food, about half of the total monthly expenditure. Debt servicing and health care are other expenditures, with health care being a major burden to poor households.

Food Security Monitoring data indicate that households rely less on the market as a source of food (compared to the 2004 baseline data). Due to the sharp rise in nominal prices, however, nominal values of purchases have driven expenditure on food as a ratio/percentage of total expenditure to a higher level. This suggests that there are access problems for some groups.

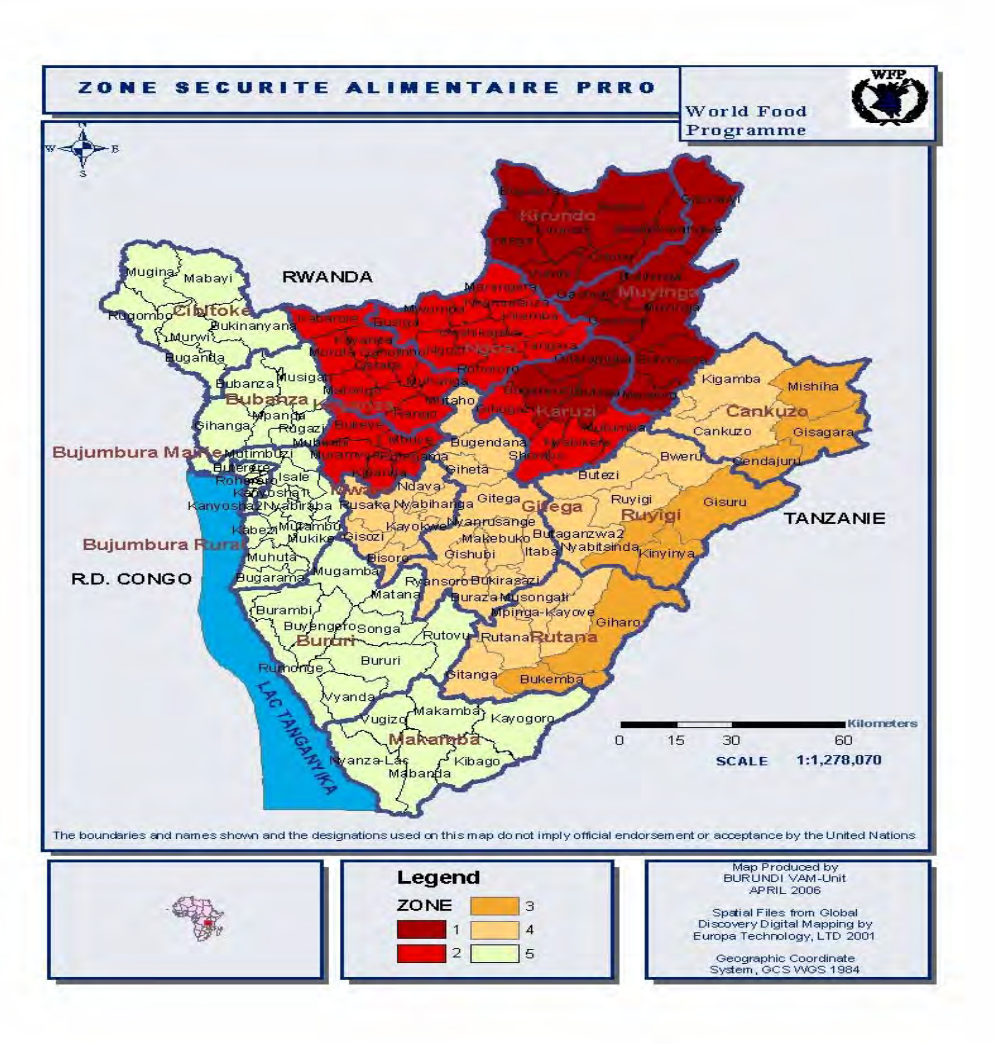
Other factors influencing household food access include the asset base (household, land, livestock), and availability of labour related to household composition including the gender of the head of household (one quarter of the households in the chronically food insecure group are headed by a woman). These are areas for further investigation.

2.4.5 Coping strategies

A great proportion of the sample households experienced one or several shocks, which required them to implement coping strategies. Diet modification was the most common measure followed by decreasing expenditures and searching for temporary work. In addition, the mean CSI[7] composite score was highest in the sample for the households categorized into the more food insecure group. The highest scores were found in the provinces of Kirundo, Muyinga and Karuzi.

2.4.6 Geographical targeting

Figure 6: Food Insecurity Zones in Burundi (JNA 2006)



[7] The coping strategies index (CSI) is calculated using information from a series of questions where the households are asked to name the frequency in which they use different coping strategies related to access and consumption of food. These coping strategies are then assigned weights, depending on the perceived severity of the coping strategies. The frequency of use is multiplied by the severity of each strategy and added together to give a composite score.

WFP interventions focus on the most food insecure and vulnerable areas. Four zones have been identified with high levels of household food insecurity by combining indicators on underweight children, levels of food consumption, levels of income, reliance on temporary work, share of monthly expenditures on food, exposure to shocks, coping strategy index and migration (see above map). These zones were also informed by results from the previous 2004 Consumption Food Security and Vulnerability Survey (CFSVA).

- Zones 1 and 2 have an average of 25 percent **severely food insecure households** (zone 1 is also affected by drought and crop disease)
- Zones 3 and 4 have an average of 10-15 percent **severely food insecure households** (zone 3 is also affected by drought). In addition;
- High returnee rates are found in zones 1 and 3.
- Zone 5, with the exception of pockets of insecurity in Bujumbura rural, there are better prospects in terms of livelihoods and food security and food insecure households are found in smaller numbers.

As per the Nutrition survey done in 2005, the Kayanza, Ngozi, Kirundo and Muyinga provinces have the highest prevalence of underweight children. Furthermore, Ngozi and Kirundo provinces have the highest prevalence of stunting among children under five (56.7 percent and 53 percent).

The Food Security Monitoring System (FSMS) set up in June 2005 pointed to a steady worsening of food security indicators (higher share of monthly expenditures on food, poorer food consumption, higher exposure to shocks and higher coping strategies index and increased migration) in the northern region (Kirundo and part of Ngozi and Muyenga provinces).

Finally, Karuzi, Kirundo and Muyinga have received large numbers of returnees (from Tanzania) since 2002.

According to the FSMS, the southern zone consisting of Makamba province as well as some communes of Bururi and Rutana, appear to be better-off areas in terms of food security, as they are the only areas where there has been a steady improvement of food security indicators.

2.5 Food utilization and nutrition

Food insecurity, poor dietary diversity, inappropriate feeding practices, as well as high prevalence rates of diseases underlie the causes of malnutrition in Burundi. There has been a progressive decrease in the overall prevalence of global acute malnutrition since 1997, when the country experienced a nutritional emergency.

Currently, the nutritional situation has stabilized to well below 10 percent nationally - although there are provincial and seasonal differences. From available information, the prevalence of acute malnutrition is less than what are considered emergency thresholds, however Kwashiorkor - a very severe form of malnutrition - comprises over 50 percent of those children identified as severely malnourished.

The prevalence of chronic malnutrition is a major cause for concern, with rates well over 30 percent, indicating much longer-term public health and nutritional problems. Chronic malnutrition reaches 60-70 percent in some areas. High stunting rates are most often reported in northern and north-eastern provinces. **Figure 7: Stunting Rates in Burundi**

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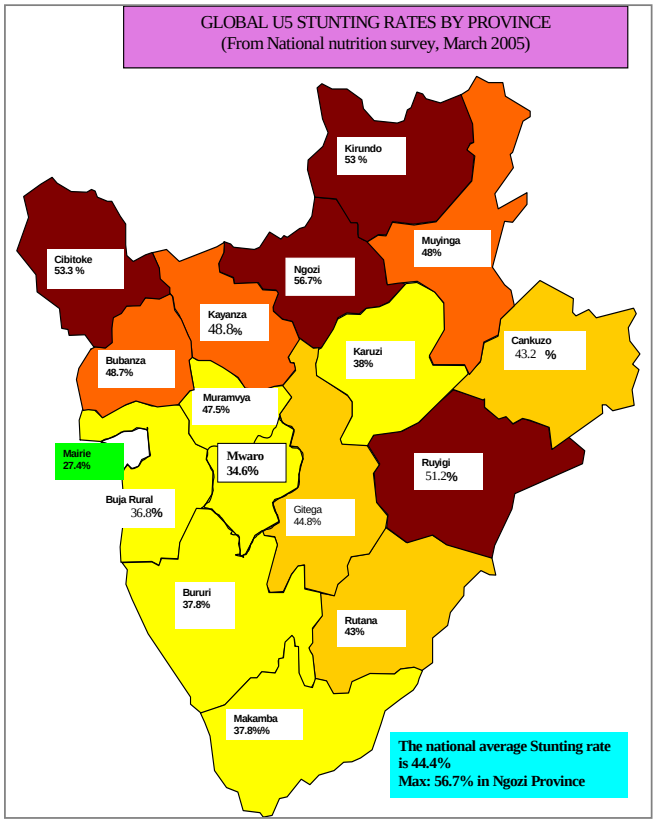


Table 4: Nutritional Status of Children Under-five[8] in Burundi

Nutrition Indicators

Chronic Malnutrition / Stunting	44.4%
Global Acute Malnutrition/ Wasting	6.47%
Underweight	32.95%

(Source: UNICEF/ WFP 2005)

The health situation is generally very poor as shown by the related following indicators for Children and Women's Health[9]:

[8] Sources: *National Nutritional Survey*, Ministry of Public Health, National Institute of Statistics, UNICEF, WFP, 2005

[9] Source: Inter-agency Evaluation: Health and Nutrition Evaluation in Burundi's Humanitarian Context, WHO, UNICEF, 2005

Table 5: Infant and Maternal Mortality Rates in Burundi

Crude Mortality Rate	**1.2 – 1.9/10,000/day**	**Emergency threshold: 1/10,000/day**
Under-five Crude Mortality Rate	**2.2 – 4.9/10,000/day**	**Emergency threshold: 2/10,000/day**
Infant Mortality Rate	**114/1,000 live births**	**Compared to 91/1,000 live births for Sub Saharan countries**
Under-five Mortality Rate	**190/1,000 live births**	
Maternal Mortality Ratio	**855/100,000**	**Compared to 940/100,000 for the African continent (WHO)**

(Source: UNICEF/ WHO 2005)

Nutrition surveillance activities conducted in Burundi include once or twice yearly surveys and the systematic collection of output and outcome indicators by the Supplementary Feeding Programmes (SFPs) and Therapeutic Feeding Centres (TFCs). Nutrition surveys are, however, not collected at the same time of the year by all partners and there is increasing concern that the classic 30x30 sampling technique is insufficiently sensitive to pick up children residing in extremely vulnerable '*Collines'*. There is some evidence to support the hypothesis that areas experiencing a high prevalence of malnutrition are more likely to be confined to specific smaller sites rather than over larger geographic areas.

Seasonal peaks in rates of admission to SFPs and TFCs occur from October to November and from March to May each year. Trend data indicates that the peaks in some areas are higher this year due to the cumulative impact of drought over the past two to three years.

Other available data indicated elevated mortality rates, although this was contradicted by more recent data. High mortality rates, when observed, are a possible indication that illness is a major contributing factor to malnutrition. The physical infrastructure for delivery of health services exists in terms of buildings throughout Burundi but there are huge deficits in trained medical personnel to run these services. The poor pay structure offered by the Ministry of Health is a further disincentive to work in this area.

The above factors are difficult to untangle especially in those areas where food insecurity is common. It is likely a combination of food insecurity and poor dietary quality, linked to (the lack of) availability of micronutrient diverse foods, and diseases which contribute to continuing malnutrition.

2.6 Response options: Prospects for recovery

2.6.1 Acute shocks in addition to chronic food insecurity

Due to recent climatic changes (and trends in rainfall patterns) and given the predominance of rain-fed agriculture and poor farming practices, harvest failure is likely to happen in future. The severity of the impact of such events on households' food security will depend on their capacity to cope and to rely on complementary off-farm activities.

The spread of Cassava Mosaic Disease is expected to decline as resilient varieties are gradually introduced through seed multiplication programs. It is probable that the situation will only normalize by the end of 2008, however. Cassava plays a 'buffer' role during lean seasons that mitigates the impact of drought. Until 2008, however, food aid is needed to address humanitarian needs and protect livelihoods.

Other problems affecting household food security such as the limited access to land, low yields and soil erosion will require longer-term interventions. Food assistance will have a limited role and should be combined with appropriate rural development interventions.

There is a need for strengthened **food security monitoring** to inform acute needs and programme adjustments.

2.7 Programme approach and exit strategy

2.7.1 Transition from relief to recovery

WFP should shift from **targeted relief to recovery**, while reinforcing synergies between programme categories in concert with partners' interventions following the Government poverty reduction and development priorities and the specific national programme for food security and nutrition, still to be developed.

The spectrum of interventions (16 in total) of the former programme has been too wide and insufficiently focused in terms of geographic targeting and beneficiary groups; their impact has been difficult to measure. The programme review conducted in February/March 2006 recommended that the 3 major components of the programme build around relief, humanitarian assistance to refugees and returnees and recovery interventions covering 10 different activities. This recommendation is endorsed by this assessment. Each of the interventions should have clearly defined objectives and address the needs of targeted groups in determined areas of the country grouped in 4 zones according to levels of food insecurity. Recommended interventions should have a clearly established role for food assistance and be combined with non-food support to agriculture, nutrition and education sectors.

Relief aid should only be used to relieve temporary and severe food-insecurity situations. In the short-term and as an immediate response to acute food insecurity, there will be a **need** for **food aid.** To address chronic food insecurity in the long-term, there is a need to augment rural incomes and increase production.

During the political transition period, NGOs have taken the lead in the coordination of humanitarian assistance at regional level and are WFP partners in planning and implementing activities. These NGOs include CARE, World Vision, Catholic Relief Service, International Rescue Committee, *Grupo Volontario Civile*, Cordaid, *Solidarités*, International Medical Corps and *Action Contre la Faim*.

Collaborative opportunities should be further explored. The World Bank is funding major projects such as the PRASAB (*Project de Rehabilitation de l'Agriculture et de la Securité Alimentaire au Burundi*), a public works project with a labour intensive programme (HIMO – *Haute Intensité de Main d'Oeuvre*). Some projects are in the pipeline to support the education sector with the building of infrastructure and the provision of learning materials for national community development. Consultation with the World Bank should enable WFP to determine the possible role of food aid in reinforcing achievements and ensuring technical and financial support to WFP supported FFW activities. Other major initiatives are the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) funded PRDMR (*Programme special de Reliance et de Développement du Monde Rural*) on improved food security and food production and the PCAC (*Programme Cadre d'Appui aux Communautés*) funded by UNDP aiming at supporting the reintegration of returnees and IDPs.

The political, economic and social context remains fragile as the political transition phase is consolidated. Economic and social development is in its infancy while the Government is launching major institutional reforms, including the restructuring of its administration and the decentralization of services. The Government decentralized services at regional and district levels are not yet operational and are not able to provide community level safety nets. Capacities in project identification and monitoring are weak. WFP should support the building of these capacities. Government commitment, however, seems to be strong.

The Government has started to reinforce its coordination capacity. The CNCA (*Comité National de Coordination de l'Aide*) has become operational and is establishing its collaboration with the *Ministère de la Solidarité*, in charge of humanitarian assistance. It intends to create thematic groups with the donor community and line ministries, including a group devoted to the food security sector. The Government has expressed interest in being better informed on WFP activities and resource requirements so that it can be supportive to strengthening coordination, reinforcing complementarities and mobilizing funds.

An interim PRSP was launched in 2003 and the complete strategy confirming earlier priorities is being finalized to start in 2007. Economic policy objectives are to reduce poverty by stabilizing the economy, promoting recovery, raise real GDP growth to a yearly 5 percent and renew public services. A Government Trust fund for emergencies was launched in February 2006 to bridge the assistance in 2006. The United Nations Development Assistance Framework (UNDAF) cycle will end in 2008 and the harmonized cycle for all United Nations agencies will start in 2009.

These development programmes will guide the better management and monitoring of social and economic progress. By 2008 WFP will be in a position to redefine its modes of intervention, including a shift to development activities that WFP envisages in the medium-term.

2.7.2 Repatriation as the only durable solution for refugees

Refugees are unlikely to be integrated into local communities, as the Government is not envisaging integration at this stage. Economic opportunities are not available to them, and they are thus unlikely to be able to meet their minimum requirements on their own. The only durable solution is their return to their country of origin.

The repatriation of the 10,000 Congolese currently settled in camps will depend on the outcome of the presidential elections to take place possibly in July 2006. The development of the peace process, the restoration of security and indications of social and economic recovery in the Kivu provinces, in particular South Kivu, where most of the refugees come from, will be determining factors. An initial repatriation of 3,000 Congolese in 2007 will leave some 5,000 people in the camps by 2008.

2.7.3 Cash based interventions

As markets do not appear to be functioning well, and since the country has been experiencing a steady increase in the food gap since 1999, cash based interventions should be considered with caution and piloted carefully. It is to be noted that the EU is financing cash for work programmes. The following points need careful consideration when considering cash based interventions:

1. Adequate capacity for effective and timely delivery of cash based interventions;
2. An effective system could be that food be provided during the hungry period and cash provided following harvests when grain is available[10];
3. Harmonization of processes for food and cash responses and clear and transparent guidelines would be required (ibid);

[10] World Food Programme, Burundi: Strategic Review of PRRO 2006

4. Contingencies in place for food responses if and when cash responses do not address food insecurity (for example if there are no adequate food supplies, or markets are unable to respond);
5. Careful targeting is required as cash may attract people that food does not, and the possibilities of "inclusion" errors will need to be addressed;
6. Modalities for selection of beneficiaries of cash based intervention to be need-based in order to avoid corruption as cash is more fungible than food;
7. Regular monitoring of markets and prices to study the impact of cash based interventions on demand and prices. Cash interventions will likely increase effective demand and hence push up price levels;
8. Gender dimensions on the use of cash versus food: men usually handle cash and may use it for other purposes in addition to food, whereas women usually handle food and use it for the household.

2.8 Recommendations for WFP Burundi programming

Though there are serious threats to food security in Burundi, improvements have been observed over the last year, exempting Northern provinces. Underlying causes for food insecurity strongly suggest that it is essentially chronic. Issues of seasonality, timing, duration and severity need to be examined. Seasonal variations in food security based on the agricultural calendar are important in influencing the time frame and type of responses (see Annex 6).

2.8.1 Geographically targeted assistance

Food aid through targeted emergency distributions (relief) is still needed in those areas that in addition to facing structural problems (extreme poverty, limited land holding, high population density) are severely affected by CMD, experience high numbers of returning refugees and are prone to poor weather hazards. The recommended targeting of the beneficiary population in **zone 1 is 20 percent for relief and 5 percent for recovery activities**.

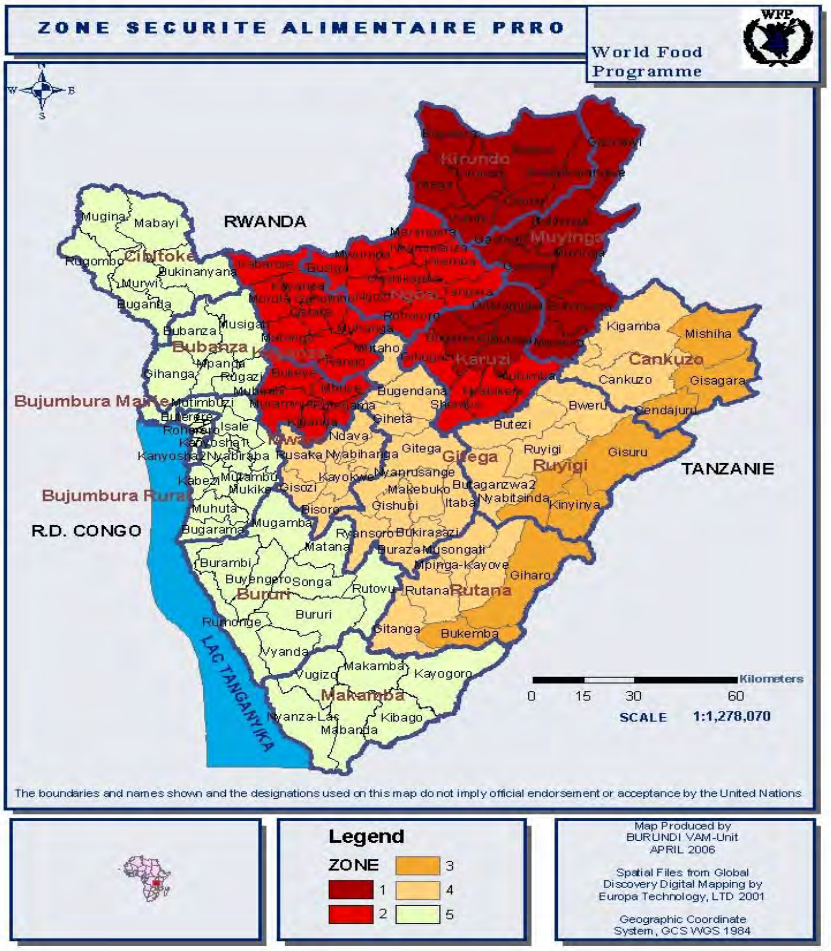
In **zone 2**, the underlying causes of food insecurity suggest a strong chronic component and recovery interventions are needed. However, there is a need to keep a relief component due to the severity of the problem. Therefore, the recommended targeting of the beneficiary population in zone 2, is **10 percent for relief and 15 percent for recovery activities.**

In **zone 3**, targeted emergency distributions are still needed for **10 percent of the population** in 2007.

In **zone 4**, a combination of **food/cash-for-work** is the appropriate response option though at present, there is limited scope and availability for cash programmes. Pilot programmes to build capacity are encouraged once the market functions have improved and prices have stabilized.

Please see figure 8 above for further information on zone location.

Figure 8: WFP Target Zones in Burundi (JNA 2006)



In 2008 and whenever possible, a gradual shift to more **recovery-type interventions** should be considered. The tables below indicate the total population numbers requiring relief and recovery assistance through Food For Work activities for each zone.

Table 6: Population requiring Relief/ FFW 2007

	Relief (targeted food distributions)[11]	Recovery (FFW)	Total
Zone 1	20% 283,897	5% 70,974	25% 354,871
Zone 2	10% 170,710	15% 256,064	25% 426,774
Zone 3	10% 36,496	5% 18,248	15% 54,744
Zone 4	0% 0	10% 145,169	10% 145,169
Total	**491,103**	**490,455**	**981,558**

[11] If the peace talks with FNL are not successful, the insecurity related problems around Bujumbura rural will continue affecting a number of people that will have to be determined in 2007. Figures of affected population requiring food assistance will be adjusted accordingly.

Table 7: Population requiring relief/ FFW 2008

	Relief (targeted food distributions)	Recovery (FFW)	Total
Zone 1	15%	10%	25%
	212,922	141,948	345,871
Zone 2	10%	15%	25%
	170,710	256,064	426,774
Zone 3	5%	10%	15%
	18,248	36,496	54,744
Zone 4	0%	10%	10%
	0	145,169	145,169
Total	**401,880**	**579,677**	**981,558**

2.8.1.1 Community based targeting

Geographic targeting should be complemented by community-based targeting, through the identification and application of appropriate criteria for selection of the most vulnerable households in these communes. This includes households with limited assets (household assets, land, livestock), limited labour capacity (female headed, illness, incapacitation), and presence of malnutrition among children.

2.8.1.2 Timing

The assistance for Food For Work activities should coincide with identified lean periods (Oct-Nov, and March-April/May).

2.8.2 Humanitarian assistance to refugees and returnees

The JNA mission recognizes that the majority of refugees rely on food aid either as their main source of food or as source of income. Though UNHCR will ensure the provision of the required non-food items and services and revitalize the Income Generating Activities (IGA) programme, it recommends the continuation of the distribution of a full ration of 2100 Kcal/person/day.

The forthcoming 2006 Joint Assessment Mission will determine the number of refugees requiring food aid, review the progress made towards their self-reliance and recommend the provision of non-food assistance. According to the planning figures, the caseload of refugees to be assisted will be decreasing to 8,000 in 2007 and 5,000 in 2008.

Refugee populations have impacted on the host communities. According to the local population, the camps have caused significant environmental degradation and have contributed to the exhaustion of natural resources such as grazing areas, firewood and water. This problem could lead to violence between the local population and the refugees. UNHCR is addressing this matter by allowing the host communities to benefit from some of the facilities open to the refugees and engaging the local authorities in constant dialogue.

According to UNHCR, 80,000 Burundians will be returning in 2007 and 55,000 in 2008. Beyond the initial 3-month repatriation package, emphasis will be put on their reintegration through interventions that will reinforce household or community assets or protect their livelihoods, depending on their profile. The extension of assistance and targeting shall be informed by a needs assessment to be undertaken jointly with UNHCR.

2.8.3 Nutrition rehabilitation

2.8.3.1 Supplementary and therapeutic feeding centres

Supplementary and therapeutic feeding centres have benefited from being run by international NGOs over the past number of years. The effectiveness of the TFCs is high in terms of recovery rates and other indicators used to evaluate such programmes. Classic treatment protocols are being implemented and while this allows for good treatment and recovery, the centres tend to be overcrowded and coverage is likely to be poor for many reasons, not least the opportunity costs for the mothers who must remain with their children during the treatment period of 30 days.

New community-based approaches can achieve similar results without significant in-patient facility requirements. They are pertinent in a country where capacity and staffing levels have deficits. The Community-Based Therapeutic Care (CTC) approach will be piloted in one district in the near future and its costs and benefits will be evaluated.

Monitoring indicators available for SFPs show that they do not meet internationally agreed standards for effectiveness or efficiency. Likewise, coverage of those identified as malnourished is presumed to be low. Therefore population level impact on prevalence of malnutrition is limited. Recently the SFPs have been integrated into Government service provision, which has caused a further weakening of the approach due to lack of personnel, although in some cases International NGOs continue to supervise. Nationally there is an inequitable distribution of these services with some districts un-served by NGOs. SFPs need to continue however, as the number of malnourished children in Burundi remains high.

- To provide equitable access to nutritional services, the geographic coverage of SFPs and TFCs should be expanded;
- To have an impact on malnutrition at the population level, active case-finding and referral of malnourished individuals in the community through Community Health Workers is required;
- Consideration should be given to re-instating a **family ration** in Muyinga and Kirundo (the most food insecure provinces) to accompany the SFP ration to minimize its inevitable dilution through sharing.

2.8.3.2 Mother and child health

The MCH programme started as a pilot in 2005 as an attempt to encourage women to attend post and anti-natal services and to reduce low birth weight (LBW). This project will be expanded in 2006 to cover three districts. Admission criteria based upon anthropometry (MUAC) should be established and it is understood that the ration will benefit all pregnant women from the second trimester and for six months post-delivery.

The project is justified given the high levels of chronic malnutrition in Burundi. The ration proposed will not impact greatly on the nutritional status of the mothers however, as they are basic rather than fortified commodities.

- WFP needs to link with UNIFEM and UNICEF to ensure complementarity of action in this sector;
- The rations should comprise fortified commodities –WFP has evidence that providing Corn Soya Blend (CSB) can reduce the prevalence of LBW;

- Indicators to be collected should include besides number of visits etc., the prevalence of LBW and anaemia to measure the outcomes of this project;

- WFP should explore the possibility of having part of the fortified flour produced and procured in Burundi from locally available ingredients –sorghum, maize, soya or beans. Small-scale production of a similar product "*Farine Composée*" (blended flour) is already produced but is unaffordable to most. A possible partner in this enterprise is United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO).

The Government is committed to nutrition programming but its involvement is currently minimal because it lacks capacity to lead the process. The only existing coordinating structure for nutrition rests in the monthly food security and nutrition meetings hosted by UNICEF, which the Government does not attend. These meetings are more information sharing sessions than meetings for strategy development or policy setting. The timing is optimal to instigate a Government-led dedicated technical nutrition group in order to improve services in the country and phase out emergency services.
Some issues that need addressing include;

- Gaps in capacities and provision of services;
- Methodologies for conducting surveys/ a nutrition surveillance system;
- Protocols for therapeutic feeding including the possibility for reorientation of TFPs towards a CTC approach as a potential exit strategy.

The planned beneficiary figures for the SFP, TFP and MCH interventions are 127,270 children under five and 61,800 pregnant and lactating mothers with supplementary feeding, and the provision of a monthly 10 kg maize allocation to families of 105,996 malnourished children.

2.8.3.3 School feeding programme

The literacy rate of the adult population is very low at 59 percent with an even lower rate for women at less than 52 percent[12]. According to UNICEF, net enrolment rates in primary schools are 50 percent for girls and 62 percent for boys while girls represent only 44 percent of children in primary schools.

The government of Burundi is committed to the World Declaration on Education for All and has developed an Action Plan in 2002 which was reviewed in 2005 and confirmed priority areas to achieve Education for All in 2010. These include the improvement of enrolment and attendance in primary schools while at the same tine reducing gender and geographical disparities. The education sector represents 15 percent of the state budget but only 4 percent of the investment budget.

A pilot project was launched in 2001 covering 21 schools in the province of Karusi. An evaluation in 2003 recommended the expansion of the programme to additional 5 districts (Kirundo, Makamba, Rutana, Cankuso and Ruyigi), which had very low attendance rates, higher gender gaps and high drop-out rates. Kirundo and part of Karusi provinces are amongst the most food insecure areas. Rutana, Makamba, Ruyigi and Cankuso had to reintegrate many returnees from Tanzania and former IDPs.

A technical review of the school feeding programme is planned in June 2006. It is expected that after the first expansion phase implemented in 2005 and 2006, the programme will be expanded further in 2007 and 2008 from 180 primary schools and 200,000 schoolchildren to 250 schools

[12] Source: UNDP Human Development Report, 2005, figures for 2003.

with approximately 300,000 schoolchildren. It should target the most food insecure areas in the North of the country and increase the number of schools assisted in each district while avoiding increased geographical coverage beyond the food insecure areas.

WFP is also planning to assist TEP schools (Teacher Emergency Package – for the reinsertion of dropout students). The planning figures for 2007 and 2008 are for 12,000 schoolchildren.

2.8.4 Burundi: Beneficiaries and food resources[13]

Table 8: Beneficiaries and food resources for 2007/ 2008

	Beneficiaries (2007)	MT	Beneficiaries (2008)	MT
1. Relief				
1.1 Targeting Feeding (GFD)	491,100	18,564	401,900	15,192
1.2 Supp. and Therapeutic Feeding	127,300	4,125	127,300	4,125
1.3 Supp. Feeding Family Ration	106,000	1,060	106,000	1,060
Total Relief	724,400	23,749	635,200	20,377
2. Refugees and Returnees				
2.1 Refugee Feeding	8,000	1,526	5,000	954
2.2 Returnee Package	80,000	3,816	55,000	2,624
2.3 Asylum Seekers	10,000	1.908	5,000	954
Total Refugees	98,000	7,250	65,000	4,532
3. Recovery				
3.1 Food For Work	490,500	18.776	579,700	22,191
3.2 Food For Training	24,500	939	29,000	1,110
3.3 School Feeding	267,000	18,138	317,000	21,765
3.4 Mother Child Health	61,800	5,500	61,800	5,500
Total Recovery	**843,800**	**13,353**	**987,500**	**50,566**
Total	**1,666,200**	**74,352**	**1,687,700**	**75,474**

2.8.5 Follow-up assessment and food security monitoring

- The information provided by the 2004 CFSVA needs to be properly updated in line with the shift from emergency to post-conflict. A first step will be to perform additional analyses based on available datasets from the World Bank *Questionnaire des Indicateurs de Base du Bien-être* (QUIBB) and DHS surveys by UNICEF. Additional analyses will link indicators from the two surveys, identify and undertake analyses on indicators related to food security. The complementary analysis will enable WFP to identify existing gaps in its food security knowledge. The analyses will also guide the CO in determining the need, if any, for the collection of additional food security information through the existing WFP-led food security monitoring system (FSMS). Special emphasis

[13] Total food requirements, which may be slightly adjusted, were calculated on the basis of:
- Targeted relief distributions: 120 days/315g (200 g cereals, 85 g pulses, 25 g vegetable oil and 5 g salt totalling 1200 kcal);
- FFW: 66 working days/580g (350 g cereals, 200 g beans, 25 g vegetable oil and 5 g salt totalling 2116 kcal);
- SFP and TFP: 120 days/240 g of CSB and 30 g of oil;
- MCH programmes: 360 days/ 200 g of oil and 5 g of iodized salt;
- Family rations for children in SFP in Muyinga and Kirondo of 10 kg maize per month;
- School feeding rations: 270g/22 days/9 months. Take home ration is 3.6 kg of oil per month (for 9 month) and cooks will receive 330g/30 days/3 pers/9 months. The beneficiaries' number includes schoolchildren, children attending TEP and cooks;
- Refugees' caseload is expected to be 8,000 beginning of 2007 and 5,000 by beginning of 2008. The planned returnees will be 80,000 in 2007 and 55,000 in 2008. The planned figures for asylum seekers are 10,000 in 2007 and 5,000 in 2008. They should then be integrated in the refugees' caseload, if at all. The tonnage is calculated on the basis of a ration of 530 g provide 360 days/year.

on migration and casual labor dynamics should be considered given the importance of these factors to rural livelihoods. More integrated food security and nutrition analysis is required as well as stronger linkages with programming;

- Data collected during the first year of the food security monitoring system should be consolidated to allow for trend and seasonal analyses. Based on lessons learned, the system should be strengthened and further integrated with the existing Food Security Early Warning System (SAPSA). Regular dissemination of results should be ensured through existing SAPSA bulletins. Close collaboration with FAO and the Government is required;

- FAO and WFP together with other partners (OCHA, UNICEF and the Government of Burundi) should continue to undertake regular Crop and Food Supply Assessments. The country food availability analysis should be supplemented by additional market information, in particular on cross-border trade;

- A market profile should be undertaken as it will provide a useful baseline information for regular market analysis as well as provide more in-depth-market analysis to inform potential for non-food interventions including cash responses;

- A study on the integration of returnees should be considered in close collaboration with UNHCR.

Section 3. Rwanda Joint Needs Assessment

3.1 Background

The genocide of 1994, the result of deeply rooted socio-cultural problems, was triggered in part, by the failure of the Arusha Agreement to settle the conflict between Tutsi refugees located in Uganda, and the Hutu-led Government. After the death of President Habyarimana in April 1994, the planned genocide of Tutsis and moderate Hutus led to the killing of 800,000 to 1 million people in approximately 100 days. By taking over the control of Kigali in July 1994, the Tutsi led Rwandan Patriotic Front (RPF) ended the acute crisis and caused the mass movement of over two million Rwandans to Zaire, Tanzania and Burundi.

As a low-income, food deficit country, Rwanda ranks 159th out of 177 countries in the 2005 Human Development Report with an annual GDP per capita of US $220. After the genocide, GDP fell by 50 percent and almost all economic sectors collapsed. The new Government managed to quickly stabilize the economy and ensure rapid growth (70 percent from 1994 to 1997), which was largely driven by the post-conflict resumption of economic activity and reconstruction.

The Government successfully implemented a broad programme of economic reforms, including the privatisation of some State enterprises, public sector reform and private sector development. For the last ten years, GDP growth, mainly driven by agriculture and construction, has remained high (between 6 and 9 percent yearly), inflation has been broadly contained, and the exchange rate has been relatively stable. Delivery of social services, while still weak, has improved. One of the key reforms to be completed in the coming period and which is essential for agriculture development is to secure land tenure[14].

The economy faces significant problems, however. High population density and a lack of intensive farming practices continue to put pressure on land and natural resources. Access to land is very limited with an average of 0.69 ha per household with the smallest plots being found in Ruhengeri (0.36 ha) and Gisenyi (0.39 ha). Agriculture continues to suffer from a lack of irrigation and water storage systems and as such remains highly vulnerable to the pattern of rain. Indeed, the agriculture season 2006A with bad rains resulted in a poor harvest, high food imports and inflationary trends resulting from rising food prices. This has serious implications for poverty reduction in Rwanda since close to 90 percent of the population depends on the land for their livelihoods. Food and asset vulnerabilities remain widespread in rural areas, with some regions subject to food shortages.

The Government has launched a second PRSP in 2006 to achieve rapid and sustainable labour-intensive and poverty-reducing growth. The PRSP targets are at least 5 percent real GDP growth, macro-economic and price stability, higher rural incomes and improved public services within a process of political decentralization. When considering progress made towards the MDGs however, Rwanda is not doing well on eradicating hunger, reducing child mortality or improving maternal health. For example, 62 percent of the population are classified as poor and 42 percent are extremely poor with the overwhelming majority living in rural areas.

Nevertheless, Rwanda has come far in a relatively short time. The period between 1994 and 2003 when the new Constitution was introduced, represented a transition period. Stability and security increased and a shift was witnessed from short-term emergency to reconstruction and medium term development planning and institutional development[15]. Rwanda is now in a post-recovery phase. Nevertheless, major political and development challenges remain. The peace

[14] World Bank, www.worldbank.org 2005
[15] Independent Evaluation Of Rwanda's Poverty Reduction Strategy 2002-2005

and stability of Rwanda continues to be threatened by the evolving situation in DRC and Burundi. The prevailing civil unrest and militia group fighting in eastern Congo/Kivu fuel political tension. Recurrent droughts and plant and animal diseases affect agriculture production and food prices.

3.2 Population movements

Table 9: Refugees, IDPs and Returnees in Rwanda as of end-2005

Refugees	43,000 Congolese 3,700 Burundians A few families from Uganda, Ethiopia, Somalia and Angola
IDPs	180,000
Returnees (since 2002)	70,000

3.2.1 Refugees, returnees and asylum seekers

By the end of 2005, Rwanda was hosting about 46,700 refugees i.e. 43,000 Congolese and 3,700 Burundians, living in three large camps. There were also a few Ugandans, Ethiopians, Somalis and Angolans. Depending on the regional security situation, UNHCR plans to repatriate 2,000 Congolese and 2,000 Burundians in 2006.

Since 2002, over 70,000 Rwandans have returned, with the highest numbers in 2002 and 2004 (respectively 24,700 and 22,500). In 2005**,** over 9,600 Rwandans repatriated. The majority of the returnees have come back from DRC (8,048) and Uganda (1,438) and returned to Gisenyi (31 percent), Ruhengeri (17 percent), Kibuye (18 percent) and Cyangugu (10 percent). Major issues with regard to returnees are access to land and socio-economic reintegration.

According to the statistical overviews provided by UNHCR country offices, the residual caseload remaining abroad is in the region of 50,000 (with the major caseloads being 15,600 refugees in Uganda, 10,000 in DRC and 4,700 in Congo Brazzaville). 19,000 Rwandan asylum seekers have sought refuge in Burundi since March 2005.

3.2.2 Internally displaced persons

Approximately 650,000 people were displaced in 1998 and 1999 in the north-western prefectures of Ruhengeri and Gisenyi during an ethnic-based insurgency. Their IDP status has not been recognized since December 2000. The situation has stabilized through a durable solution consisting mainly in the National Habitat Policy or "*villagisation*" providing for the relocation of Rwandans in Government created villages.

The Government is still calling for international support for 180,000 households living in inadequate shelter, of which more than 100,000 are settled in Ruhengeri and Gisenyi prefectures. People have less access to land than they had before their displacement. The Government states that "*villagisation*" will result in increased productivity and reduced poverty, though to date there is no evidence for this. In many instances, available land is insufficient and far lower than the country average and does not allow for food self-reliance or to generate sufficient income for education or health related expenses. These resettled people are therefore vulnerable according to various household livelihood studies.

3.2.3 Refugee access to food

As with Burundi, the refugees in Rwanda have no access to land for agriculture. Few income generating activities are undertaken in the camps as no additional provision for them was made in 2005 by UNHCR due to lack of funds. Small-scale gardening activities have started in two camps. There is also evidence that a small number of refugees earn money or obtain in kind

payments through casual labour (often farming) outside the camps or paid work inside the camps. Some receive remittances from DRC, receive gifts or barter their food or non-food items (food, clothing and housing materials).

Food rations were distributed regularly except for in April and May 2005 when the ration was reduced by 30 percent due to lack of resources. Non-food items such as clothes and soap were distributed regularly. Firewood could not be provided as planned and caused some security incidents for the young boys and girls involved in firewood collection.

Of the total of 6,000 Burundian refugees, 4,000 were repatriated in 2005 and 2,000 are planned to return in 2006. The numbers now repatriating have dwindled. A residual caseload may remain in 2007 but the issue of their integration has not been addressed as yet.

Prospects in DRC that would allow the Congolese to return are uncertain, though there are some hopes that if the elections go smoothly, the situation may progressively improve. International pressure on DRC is essential in this process. All the refugees are from Kivu where recent reports indicate that there may be up to 700,000 internally displaced persons.

Depending on the DRC elections, repatriation may be facilitated during the second half of 2006 though no tripartite agreement between the Governments of DRC and Rwanda exists as yet. The refugees are very reluctant to return at this point in time. The Rwandan Government is not willing to allow their integration.

Table 10: Estimation of refugee/returnee movements in Rwanda (2006 to 2008)[16]

Assisted Caseloads	01/2006	Departures (voluntary repatriation)	01/2007	Departures (Voluntary repatriation)	01/2008	Departures (Voluntary repatriation)	01/2009
Congolese refugees in camps	43,000	2,000	41,000	12,000	29,000	15,000	14,000
Burundian Refugees	3,700	2,000	1,700	700	1000	800	200
Rwandan Returnees	50,673	10,000	40,673	7,500	33,173	5,000	28,173

3.2.4 Returnee packages

In October 2002, UNHCR changed its policy of repatriation of Rwandan refugees from 'facilitation' to 'promotion'. This change was underwritten and formalized in Tripartite Agreements signed between UNHCR, Rwanda and countries of asylum where Rwandan refugees reside[17].

Since 2002, the number of repatriated Rwandans has progressively decreased. A major problem faced by those who did not leave family members behind, is access to land. A new land reform law and policy addresses issues of property, allocation of reclaimed and donated land but has no component regarding the resettlement and integration of returnees.

In order to evaluate the sustainability of the repatriation process and the restoration of national protection, UNHCR has been conducting a returnee monitoring programme. In 2005, activities

[16] These figures do not take into account population growth. Repatriation figures have to be taken with caution, in particular for 2008. They will be adjusted to actual population movements.
[17] Tripartite agreements were signed so far between UNHCR, the Government of Rwanda and the Governments of Zambia, Congo-Brazzaville, Uganda, Malawi, Namibia, Zimbabwe Mozambique and recently Kenya (March 2006).

focused on issues such as land and housing access, security, the position of the returnees with regard to "*Gacacas*" (village courts) and the situation of women and children.

The main problems for returnees continue to be linked with socio-economic difficulties, peace building and reconciliation among local communities. UNHCR has developed a reintegration project to enhance the self-sufficiency of returnees through the promotion of income generating activities. This has to be complemented by the Government's awareness raising programme on unity and reconciliation. The needs of returnees will have to be addressed in the next Economic Development and Poverty Reduction Strategy.

3.3 Food availability and markets

3.3.1 Food production and supply

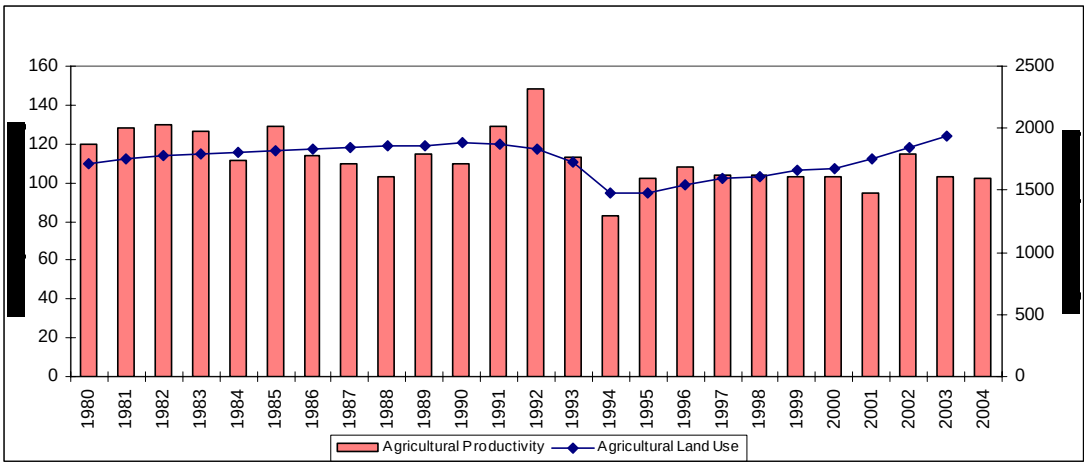
Rwanda's Food Production and Supply are characterised as follows:

- Agricultural productivity is sluggish;
- Farm sizes are small due to population pressure;
- There are current food deficits of 175,000 tons and annual food imports of 142,000 tons.

Rwanda has made a remarkable transition from the 1994 genocide to peace and development over the last 10 years. The performance of the agricultural sector remains inadequate however, in spite of increased production of rice and vegetables, promoted by the Government.

Productivity has remained constant for major food staples and the average farm size has declined. Although the land area under agriculture has slightly increased since 1993, population growth and subsequent land subdivision has led to smaller farm sizes. According to the last agricultural survey, average farm sizes decreased from 0.82 ha in 1990 to 0.69 ha in 2005.

Figure 9: Rwanda - Land Use for Agriculture/ Per Capita Agricultural Productivity (1980-2004)



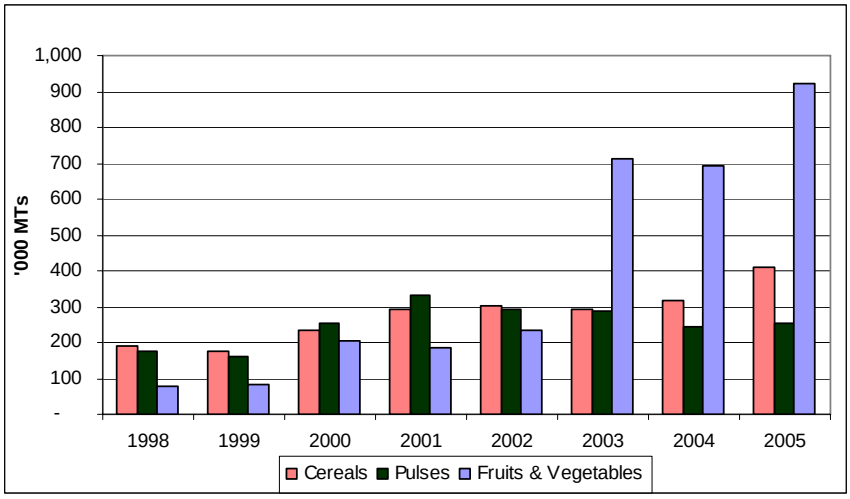
Source: FAO Statistical Databases, 2006

Food availability and supply have improved in recent years. The total food production increased appreciably, although the cassava production has been affected adversely by the spread of Cassava Mosaic Disease (CMD). In 2005, food production was overall 18 percent higher than the 8-year average with an increase of 58 percent for fruits and vegetables, 32 percent for

cereals and 15 percent for roots and tubers. Banana and pulses production grew only slightly by 6 and 1 percent, respectively.

Erratic rains occurred during the 2006A season when the bulk of beans were produced. This together with the reduced production of cassava will likely have a negative impact on the food security of rural households, in particular the poor due to the important role of both products in their diets.

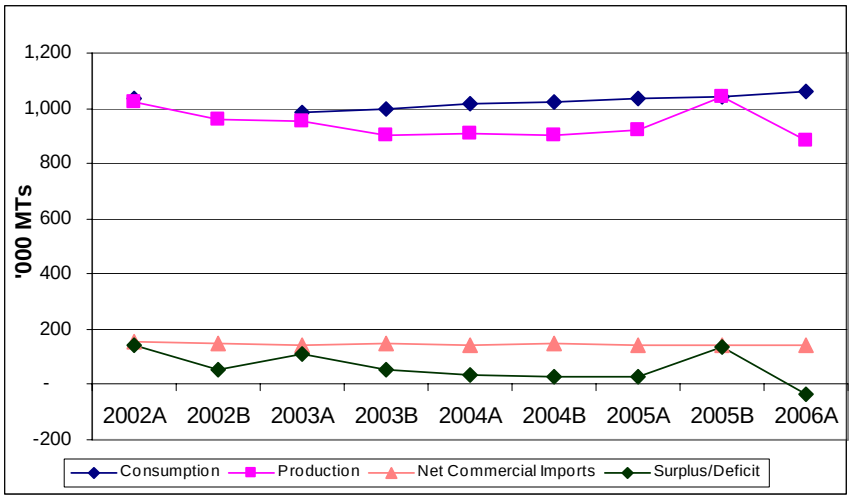
Figure 10: Rwanda Crop Production (1998-2005)



Source: Ministry of Agriculture

According to the food balance sheet produced by the Ministry of Agriculture and Animal Resources (MINAGRI), production decreased from 923,000 tons in season 2005A to 884,000 tons in season 2006A cereal equivalent. Based on domestic food requirements, the deficit amounts to 175,000 tons of cereal equivalent. After expected private imports of 142,000 tons, the food deficit still remains at 33,000 tons cereal equivalent with some one million people in need of urgent food aid assistance for 6 months until the next harvest in June 2006.

Figure 11: Rwanda Food Gap (2002-2006)



Source: Ministry of Agriculture

Rwanda is a structurally food-deficit country which imports annually at least 130,000 tons of food, mainly cooking oil, wheat, sugar, rice, beans, maize, cooking banana and dairy products. Prices of domestic crops and livestock products are structurally higher than in neighbouring countries, because: (a) Rwanda is a high-cost producer with land scarcity; (b) it is a landlocked country, with high transport costs for food imports; (c) high import parity prices because of market protection (import substitution policy of the Government); and (d) domestic supply cannot satisfy domestic demand[18]. Although these high price levels help most Rwandan farmers to survive on their tiny plot of land, it has negative implications for access to food by poor farmers with a limited level of self-consumption.

3.3.2 Markets and food price developments

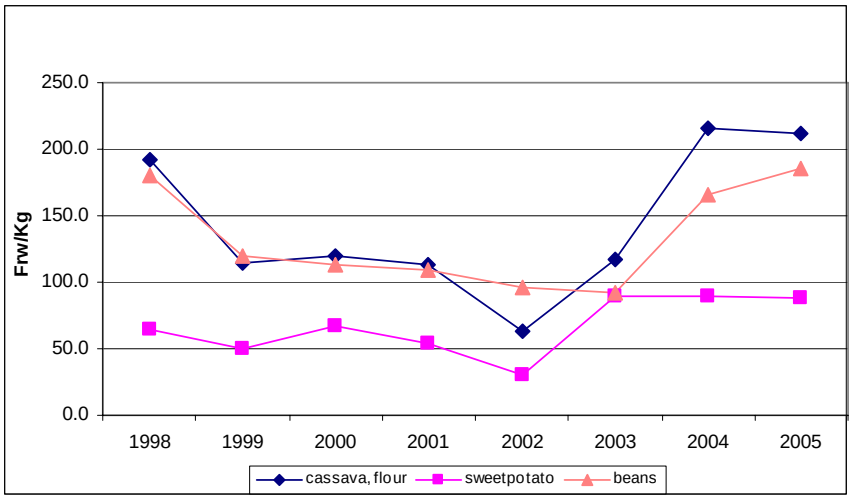
Rwanda's Markets and Food Prices are characterised as follows:

- Relatively well functioning integrated markets with efficient marketing chains
- Food prices have been on the increase since 2002
- Competitive bean markets (whole sale prices lower in Kigali compared to Ugandan and Tanzanian markets)
- Passion fruit, banana and vegetables exports to Uganda and DRC

Markets appear to be functioning well with relatively efficient domestic marketing chains and good spatial market integration. As there are 2 to 3 harvests stretched over the year and reasonable seasonal price fluctuations, the role of speculative storage is limited. Producer prices have been favourable (Figure 12). The implications for interventions are that cash responses can be considered as alternatives when prices and availability permit and funding is secured. Beans, potatoes and passion fruit are the only commodities for which the country is competitive and limited amounts are exported. However, some local purchase of beans could be considered as conditions allow (normal production and reasonable prices).

[18] World Bank/ FAO, Rwanda agricultural policy Note, background study 2, Rwanda agricultural markets overview. Draft report, March 2006 and Rwamasirabo, Serge. Rwanda. "Bellmon analysis FY 2006". March 2005

Figure 12: Rwanda, Annual Urban Consumer Price Levels for Key Commodities



Source of Data: PASAR

Although food prices have increased significantly since 2002 reflecting the effects of unfavourable growing conditions, inflation was not as alarming as in Burundi (Table 7), suggesting higher imports (mostly cross-border trade) due to stronger currency and overall higher prices in Rwanda compared to neighbouring countries, notably DRC, Tanzania and Uganda.

Table 11: Rwanda: Consumer Price Index 1998-2005

Year	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005
CPI	91.0	106.0	100.0	102.0	108.0	108.0	114.0	125.0

3.3.3 Options for food procurement

The Government of Rwanda supports and encourages local food procurement as it has the potential to increase local production and boost the economy. There is adequate capacity with respect to storage facilities, transport and milling facilities. Existing corn-soybean blend production plants are functional and have sufficient production capacities.

The Government also encourages a warehouse receipt system (WRS) by providing storage facilities directly to farmer groups. A strategy for the setting up of WRS' is under way with joint efforts by the Ministry of Agriculture and Commerce and the private sector. The Government has also set up the commodity support program to buy food through co-operatives. They provide commodities such as maize, beans and rice.

The current price level for maize price is US$250/MT (end March 2006), but there are very little stocks available and the bulk of it is imported from Uganda and DRC (interviews with suppliers). The price of maize is forecast to be US$350/MT by the end of April 2006. After harvests, maize and bean prices usually decrease to US$175/ton and US$150/ton, respectively. The Famine Early Warning System Network (FEWSNET) gathers unprocessed food prices twice a month.

Gesellschaft für Technische Zusammenarbeit (German Technical Cooperation - GTZ) a WFP NGO Partner, buys maize, beans and oil (imported) through newspaper tenders after conducting a market analysis.

3.2.3 Recommendations for local WFP food procurement in Rwanda

- Analyses of historical data for the last five years show that WFP purchases locally on average up to 2,500 tons of food per year. The current assessment indicates that the country had food surpluses between season 2002A and 2005B. After season 2006A however, Rwanda had a food deficit amounting to 175,000 tons. After deducting commercial imports planned at 142,000 tons of cereal equivalent, 33,000 tons of food aid were still required. Local food procurements shall remain at average levels of 2,500 tons, should the situation normalize. This recommendation will be reviewed and local purchase levels revised against updated data on food availability and markets;

- Some local purchase of beans could be considered as conditions allow (under normal production and reasonable prices)

The following recommendations apply to all three countries:

- Direct purchases from farmer groups are highly encouraged;
- Increased communication and information sharing on procurement with government and other organizations (international and local institutions) is supported;
- Communicate with donors on the status of markets in terms of prices and food availability and provide recommendations for local purchases;
- Conduct detailed local market surveys on prices and availability prior to purchase.

3.4 Household food access and livelihoods

3.4.1 Factors determining household food insecurity and vulnerability

Factors affecting the food security situation in Rwanda at regional and household level:

- The seasonal pattern of food insecurity as the population mainly relies on subsistence agriculture;
- Recurrent rain and crop failures;
- The lack of buffer mechanisms and crops during lean seasons (pest and crop diseases affecting banana and cassava);
- The resort to some coping mechanisms which have been restricted due to their environmental impact, could have a negative effect on household food security;
- Household access to food is ensured through own production for 60 percent. The remainder comes from purchases;
- High poverty rate in the country (over 60 percent) and limited economic opportunities available to households in rural areas to ensure sufficient income to cover basic food and non-food needs;
- The factors above disproportionately affect vulnerable groups such as women or minor headed households representing 36 percent of households. A third of farming households are headed by women (as compared to 22 percent in 1984) while 40,000 households are headed by children (100,000 people according to 2002 statistics).

Accurate and reliable food security data and analyses were not available at the time of the assessment. As a result, the mission could only rely on partial and very qualitative information collected by a number of partners. A nation-wide comprehensive food security and vulnerability

analysis (CFSVA) was carried out since the mission however, and finalized in time for inclusion in this report.

In addition, there were indications that a food crisis was prevailing in the southern part of the country. An Emergency Food Security Assessment (EFSA) was undertaken in April 2006 – shortly after the current JNA. The EFSA was conducted in five districts of south Rwanda: Bugesera, Gisagara, Huye, Kayonza and Kirehe.

These districts belong to the most chronically food insecure areas of the country and there is a consensus among stakeholders that these districts are mainly those requiring assistance[19]. Preliminary results of the EFSA were used to complete the partial household food insecurity and vulnerability analysis done on the basis of qualitative information available at the time of the JNA.

The information on food access has been collected during the EFSA and reflects the situation of an acute crisis. They therefore should be interpreted with caution when attempting to understand structural aspects of household food insecurity. This information will be reviewed and refined on the basis of the CFSVA results.

The worst-off households in Rwanda are those who combine various vulnerability factors:
- Little or no access to land;
- Households headed by a woman, an elderly person or an orphan;
- Large households with limited manpower.

3.4.1.1 Food consumption

According to preliminary CFSVA[20] results, 2 percent of adults in the five districts had not had a meal the day before the survey, 30 percent had one meal, 61 percent had had two meals and only 3 percent had eaten three times. Almost 25 percent of children had less than 2 meals, including 10 percent who had not eaten at all and 14 percent who had eaten once. About half of the children had taken two meals, and only 25 percent had taken 3 meals. About 75 percent of the households indicated that this pattern was unusual, reflecting the severity of the crisis.

3.4.1.2 Expenditure, income and asset ownership

According to the EFSA, the main source of household income at the time of the survey was daily labour (41 percent). A smaller proportion of households (21 percent) were able to obtain an income from the sale of agricultural produce (bananas, cassava) and 18 percent had received gifts from relatives or neighbours. The corresponding proportions of income during the same period of the year in "normal" times were 38 percent, 29 percent and 11 percent, reflecting better access to agricultural produce for sale and lower dependence on external support.

According to the CFSVA, the total average amount that was borrowed by the households in the 5 Districts in the last year was RWF 49,470 (US$90). This amount is high as it represents 58 percent of the average monthly household cash expenditure and 170 percent of monthly food expenditure. In terms of household assets, a limited number own livestock (11 percent cattle, sheep or goats and 22 percent poultry).

[19] Additional areas of the country might present food insecurity patterns such as the Congo-Nile Ridge zone ("*Crête du Nil*"), which is another deficit area due to limited cultivation (steep slopes and erosion). However, these regions have not been identified as requiring particular attention at the moment due to the availability of additional livelihoods opportunities. The CFSVA once finalized will provide updated information on the regional food security status of the country.
[20] A partial analysis was performed on the data of 5 districts in the chronically food insecure areas.

3.4.1.3 Coping strategies

In the 5 Districts, drought was the main shock mentioned by 85 percent of the households. To compensate for the difficulties it caused, a quarter of the households consumed less preferred foods. Around 10 percent either sold small animals, reduced the number of daily meals, or worked for food. Few households rented out land (4 percent) or consumed seed stocks (3 percent), spent their savings (3 percent) or borrowed money (3 percent).

Only 5 percent of the households felt that their coping mechanisms had enabled them to recover from their losses, and 19 percent believed that they had only been partially efficient.

The EFSA found that for the 2006B agricultural season, the self-sufficiency capacity of the neediest households was very low. Less than one third will harvest maize and sorghum and only two thirds will produce beans due to lack of inputs and/or failing rains. Because of their limited access to land and income, these households will face serious obstacles to ensure adequate food consumption throughout the year. This will be aggravated by a context where two thirds of the households have to repay debt.

3.4.2 Main findings

The following information is to be treated with some caution as it does not reflect the normal situation but a drop in people's livelihood due to two consecutive rain failures in localized areas of the country.

The rapid assessment (EFSA) determined that '***severely food insecure***' households combine 3 or 4 vulnerability factors and '***moderately food insecure'*** combine 2 or 3 vulnerability factors:

Vulnerability Factors determining Food Insecurity:

- Elderly (woman or man) single-head of household with less than 0.1 ha, or with more than 6 members;
- Adult woman single-head of household with less than 0.1 ha and more than 6 members;
- Elderly married-head of household with less than 0.1 ha and more than 6 members;
- Adult man single-head of household with less than 0.1 ha and less than 6 members, or with more than 0.1 ha and more than 6 members;
- Adult (woman or man) married-head of household with less than 0.1 ha and more than 6 members.

Given their characteristics, most of the households ***severely*** **(4 percent)** and ***moderately*** **(23 percent) food insecure** are ***chronically*** **food insecure** in **"normal"** times. The current crisis due to successive crop failures has aggravated their status and caused acute food insecurity in both groups.

Other households are vulnerable to food insecurity **in "normal" times** and thus can be ***transitorily*** **food insecure in bad years (45 percent)**. It is highly probable that due to the prevailing circumstances they are currently in a phase of food insecurity, though less acute/ severe than the former two groups. However, this group has better prospects for recovery and should not require food assistance in normal times. These households should benefit from longer-term interventions that aim at reducing their vulnerability.

Chronic food insecurity is a long-term or persistent inability to meet minimum food consumption requirements that lasts for more than 6 months of the year.

Transitory food insecurity is a short-term or temporary inability to meet minimum food requirements (indicating a capacity to recover). A limited time-frame (usually 2-3 months) usually characterizes transitory status.

(See EFSA Technical Guidance Sheet No.6: Distinction Between Chronic, Transitory and Vulnerability to Food Insecurity in an EFSA)

When applying 4 of the 5 vulnerability factors mentioned above (excluding the elderly single-headed household that have special needs), **15 percent of the households** in the 5 food insecure provinces studied by the EFSA and the additional 8 provinces identified by the Prime Minister's Disaster Management and Coordination Unit cumulate vulnerability factors of **'severe'** and **'moderate'** food insecurity.

3.5 Food utilization and nutrition

3.5.1 Overview

The most recent overview of the nutritional situation is contained in "*Rwanda - Enquête Démographique et de Santé*" published in 2005. The results of the survey reveal chronic malnutrition levels of 45 percent, and acutely malnourished or wasted children at 5 percent. The level of emaciation is highest (9 percent) for the children from 12 to 23 months, corresponding to the period of weaning and greater exposure to childhood disease. The DHS survey also indicated that infant mortality is at 152 deaths per 1,000 live births. Approximately one child in seven dies before reaching five years of age. These estimates also indicate that almost half of all infant deaths take place in the first year of life.

The level of chronic malnutrition in Rwanda is above the threshold generally considered to be of public health significance and is indicative of long term health and nutrition problems. Poor caring practices are just one cause for children's inadequate nutritional status. The DHS survey shows that children whose mothers have no education are almost twice as likely (48 percent) to be affected by stunting than those whose mothers have secondary education or higher (26 percent). The heavy workload on women, often during pregnancy, leads to health problems for both women and children. This is compounded by men's lack of involvement in childcare. All these factors contribute to low birth weight, complications in delivery and breastfeeding, and inadequate childcare provision.

The DHS report provided much useful information but also reflects the situation at the time. In general, there is little current reliable nutrition or food security information that can serve for food security early warning and emergency response. This constraint is important when food insecurity threatens large numbers of people in some areas of the country and a costly assessment needs to be launched to determine the extent and severity of the crises. Examples of such studies are sited below:

- In February 2006, UNICEF conducted a rapid nutrition survey in two of the most drought-affected sectors of Bugesera District (Ngenda and Gashora), using Mid Upper Arm Circumference (MUAC) among under-5 children as an indicator of nutritional status[21]. It was found that 6 percent of the children were severely and 17 percent moderately

[21] Report on the rapid assessment of the nutritional status in Bugesera - UNICEF, February 2006

malnourished. Including oedema, almost one in four of the children were screened as malnourished.

- Alarming results were obtained from a nutritional survey done in February 2006 (by the Millennium Project) at the Mayange health centre of Bugesera District[22]. Among 500 children attending the health centre, 18 percent had oedema and other signs of kwashiorkor, 8 percent were severely malnourished and 27 percent were moderately malnourished. These levels are higher than the national averages reported by the 2005 DHS.

- A WFP-supported nutritional centre in Bugesera District indicated in February 2006, an increased number of admissions of under-5 children and adults (460 persons compared to an average of 250 at the same period in 2005). The centre staff reported complaints of adults reluctant to leave after recovery, due to lack of food at home[23]. However, visits to Rilima nutritional center (Bugesera District) and Gisagara nutritional center by a USAID mission at the same period did not reveal significant changes in the levels of attendance, morbidity or mortality due to lack of food however[24].

The contradictory nature of the above studies highlights the urgent need for an early warning and nutrition surveillance system to capture information more quickly. Constraints in data gathering are only one reflection of weak government systems however. Programmes to support improvements in nutrition are also patchy in their quality. As mentioned earlier, it is unlikely that the MDG targets for halving hunger, reducing child mortality and improving maternal health will be met. WFP has reduced support to nutrition centres over the last few years, concentrating on those centres that meet certain standards of staffing and infrastructure.

WFP supports SFP through MCH programmes in 96 centres. A decision was made several years ago to target only those health structures that had an adequate infrastructure and capacity to manage the programmes. Currently there are 96 such centres that fulfill WFP criteria. These programmes function well. Entry and exit indicators are respected and rations supplied are in line with corporate standards. In addition the centres are an important safety net in areas currently affected by drought, though their outreach is limited. Ten to twelve thousand beneficiaries are assisted each month through this modality including just under three hundred refugees.

3.5.2 Mother and child health

Mother and child health issues are characterized by high levels of fertility, maternal mortality and STD infection rates, and by low levels of contraceptive use. Men are poorly sensitised and usually do not allow their wives to use contraceptives. In food insecure zones, there is no special diet for pregnant/ lactating women and child malnutrition is common. Special childcare is difficult because the mothers are busy working on the land, or collecting fuel and water. The 2005 DHS survey reports that 33 percent of the women suffer from anaemia of whom 3 percent have severe anaemia.

The vulnerability analysis baseline carried out in 2003[25], reported limited access to health services and medicines because most people cannot afford medical fees and/or transport costs to the health centres or hospitals. There is a reported increase in malaria and malnutrition. The "*mutuelle*" or health insurance system is not affordable for many vulnerable households.

[22] Hunger crisis in the Bugesera region of Rwanda, 21 February 2006 - The Rwanda Millennium Villages Project
[23] Visit to Bugesera District, 23 February 2006 – WFP Field report
[24] Humanitarian Assessment in Rwanda - USAID report, February 2006
[25] 2003 Rwanda Vulnerability Baseline Report by WFP, Government of Rwanda and FEWSNET.

3.5.3 HIV/AIDS

According to latest UNAIDS estimates, the national HIV/AIDS prevalence rate is at 5.1 percent, based on antenatal surveillance. The difference in prevalence between rural (4 percent) and urban (11 percent) is high. The national prevalence rate of 5.1 percent is considerably lower than previous estimates (ranging between 8 and 13 percent). The DHS 2005 survey shows that at the national level the prevalence is 3 percent (confidence interval from 2.6 to 3.4). Women, with a rate of prevalence of 3.6 percent, are infected more than men with 2.3 percent.

Access to HIV/AIDS treatment has improved. HIV/AIDS is now fully integrated into the programmes of the Ministry of Health. Access to PMTCT (Prevention of Mother to Child Transmission) steadily increased from 53 sites in 2003, to 121 in 2004. The trend in the proportion of adherent HIV-infected pregnant women receiving a complete course of Anti-Retro Virals has increased from 67.7 percent in 2003 to 72 percent in 2004[26].
WFP supports three different activities related to HIV, divided between the Country Programme and the PRRO. Two thousand beneficiaries are supported under the PRRO and approximately 4,500 under the Country Programme.

3.6 WFP programme approach and exit strategy

The main factors determining household access to food are similar to those in Burundi, though possibly not of the same magnitude and severity.

In view of the overall macro-economic context, growth rates, the progress made on sectoral policies and their implementation, the Government could be in a position in the medium term (in possibly two years) to take responsibility for early warning, emergency response and social safety net provision. The WFP programme includes a number of activities to support the strengthening of Government capacities in crop and food security assessments, food security monitoring and nutrition surveillance. The CFSVA study was the first step towards a more systematic collaboration on matters related to household food security.

The Government has embarked on major administrative restructuring and has decentralized most services to district and cell levels. It is expected that while this is a positive move, this exercise will require some time to become fully operational.

3.6.1 Enhancing capacities for post-recovery

After the election of President Kagame in August 2003, a major institutional restructuring of central and local government authorities to decentralize to district and cell levels took place. This process will take one to two more years to finalize and will require capacity building support.

The Government needs to improve the quality of its information collection and analysis as a basis for decision-making. Better methodologies to ensure the availability of quality data will provide stronger evidence for allocating scarce resources. United Nations agencies have undertaken a sectoral Common Country Assessment (CCA) type exercise (agriculture, water, education) on the status of the most vulnerable groups. It will feed into the EDPRS (Economic Development and Poverty Reduction Strategy) and attainment of the MDGs.

Early warning, disaster management and emergency response capacities will have to be strengthened. There is not yet strong leadership and coordination of food security related matters. UN humanitarian agencies, NGOs, ICRC and the Office of the Prime Minister have set up a Disaster Management Task Force. A contingency planning working group is coordinated by

[26] Rwanda PRSP – Annual Progress Report. MINECOFIN, July 2005.

UNHCR and includes refugee and population movements. Other sub-working groups on natural disasters, food security (led by FAO and WFP) and avian flu (led by WHO) have been established.

The first PRSP is under review and the EDPRS will start in 2008. The WFP Country Programme was extended to phase into the UNDAF as part of the EDPRS. Donors such as the World Bank and DFID have aligned their country programmes to the EDPRS. No CCA is required as the PRSP evaluation will be used as a background document for development programming for the United Nations Agencies.

To avoid the further deterioration of the food security situation, WFP supports a twin-track approach consisting of long-term development and a safety net component including Food For Work and nutritional support. This assistance is recommended until Government decentralization is completed. It is expected that this process will require two years, allowing the social protection and common development funds to become fully operational to respond to emergencies.

3.6.2 Repatriation as a durable solution

The Government of Rwanda will not consider integrating refugees and is not in a position to provide sustainable means for their self-reliance. The only durable solution is their return to their country of origin. Promoted repatriation is already underway for the Burundian refugees.

For the refugees from DRC, conditions are still not conducive to promote repatriation. Of the 46,700 Congolese who remain in camps in 2006, approximately 2,000 may be repatriated in 2006, 12,000 in 2007 and 15,000 in 2008 which leaves approximately 6,000 Congolese refugees behind in 2009. By then the cessation clause of refugee status could possibly be declared.

3.6.3 Cash based interventions: Opportunities

As markets appear to be functioning well, with relatively efficient domestic marketing chains and good spatial market integration, cash based responses could be considered and piloted. The type of cash or voucher interventions (cash relief and cash for work) will need to be carefully selected drawing from lessons learnt from other programmes.

Cash based responses need to be linked and supported by responses already being piloted such as the NGO cereal banks, in particular CARITAS, and the Government. The cereal banks have the objective of improving village food reserves and building the capacity of communities to manage their own stocks.

3.7 Recommendations for WFP intervention

3.7.1 Protecting Livelihoods

The chronic nature of household food insecurity in Rwanda suggests that longer-term interventions are required in most cases within a twin-track approach to provide a safety net to the most vulnerable. The identification of such interventions will be facilitated by the CFSVA[27]. In the meantime, a working hypothesis was built based on the EFSA findings.

It is expected that chronically food insecure people will require support through income transfers in the form of **Food For Work or Cash-For-Work** during the lean seasons in the coming years

[27] These provisional considerations will therefore be adjusted based on the CFSVA findings that are expected to be available by end July 2006.

to protect or possibly enhance their livelihoods and food consumption. These transfers will function as a safety net to avoid any deterioration of their situation.

The households that lack able-bodied members (such as elderly single-head of households) will need **social security schemes** or other forms of social safety net not requiring a contribution.

When applying 4 of the 5 vulnerability factors mentioned above (excluding the elderly single-headed household that have special needs), **15 percent of the households** in the 5 food insecure provinces studied by the EFSA and the additional 8 provinces identified by the Prime Minister's Disaster Management and Coordination Unit cumulate vulnerability factors of **'severe' and 'moderate' food insecurity**. When applying this percentage to the total population in the given areas, approximately 420,000 people require assistance to overcome the lean seasons. Assuming that for half of them food aid by WFP would be the right response (household preference and limited market availability or high prices), the planned figure for **food aid beneficiaries will be 210,000 persons**.

This estimate has to be refined with CFSVA data on access to markets, income sources, expenditure structure and nutrition status. Capacities for implementing Food For Work and Food For Cash schemes, as well as their funding, also need to be addressed. This working hypothesis provides an order of magnitude. It should be taken with caution and should only be considered as indicative figure subject to refinement based on CFSVA results.

3.7.2 Nutrition rehabilitation

WFP supports SFP through MCH programmes in 96 centres. Ten to twelve thousand beneficiaries are assisted each month through this modality including just under three hundred refugees. Six thousand five hundred beneficiaries are supported via 3 HIV Project activities.

- In addition to the 96 centres cited above, efforts should be made to include MCH centres in the most chronically food insecure areas into the programme. This will improve coverage in vulnerable areas and assist in serving as sentinel sites for early warning. Capacity development, including clear guidance on admission criteria, should be conducted jointly by UNICEF and WFP.

- Given that Rwanda is no longer in an emergency situation, the current MCH programmes could eventually be integrated into the Country Programme.

- The HIV/AIDS component in Rwanda is small, totalling 6,500 beneficiaries split between the Country Programme and PRRO. All of these activities should be mainstreamed through the Country Programme as the beneficiaries were never part of the original PRRO caseload.

- The rationale for the food baskets provided under the HIV umbrella needs to be reviewed and a standardized approach is recommended. A more coherent basket in line with those proposed by the Ministry of Health should be provided.

3.7.3 Humanitarian assistance to refugees and returnees

Refugees should continue to receive a full ration of 2100 Kcal and benefit from SFP and TFP. UNHCR provides health, education, water supply and sanitation, firewood, domestic items, shelter and legal protection services. Over 80 percent of refugee children are enrolled in primary education.

As stated above, income generating activities in the camps are very limited. The Joint Assessment Mission to be undertaken this year will review the level of refugees' self-reliance, their nutrition situation and planning figures for repatriation.

The number of refugee beneficiaries is based on repatriation as planned by UNHCR. This should be closely monitored as the figures may need revision according to political developments in DRC.

In addition to a 3-month food ration, **returnees** receive a package of non-food items and a cash lump sum of US$100 per adult and US$50 per child. The main challenge for the returnees is access to land. Land disputes and compensation are addressed by the Government. Returnee projections are for 10,000 persons in 2006 and 5,000 in 2007 and 2008, leaving approximately 30,000 Rwandans still outside their country of origin by 2009.

3.7.4: Total projected WFP beneficiaries and food resources for 2007 and 2008

Table 12: Rwanda Beneficiaries and food resources for 2007/2008

	January 2007	Average 2007[28]	January 2008	Average 2008
Congolese[29] refugees	41,000	28,500	23,000	17,500
Burundian refugees	1,700		1,000	
Tonnage (incl. SFP/TFP)		**6,500**		**3,900**
Returnees[30]		10,000		5,000
Tonnage		**476**		**288**
SFP/TFP/MCH		12,000		8,500
Tonnage		**2,570**		**2,294**
FFW/FFT[31]		210,000		210,000
Tonnage		**7,273**		**7,263**
Total tonnage		**16,619**		**13,745**

3.7.5 Follow-up assessment and food security monitoring

- The CFSVA should provide a reference for review and planning of operational activities, in particular the Food For Work component. The suggested priority zones and targeted households given by this assessment should be verified and refined. The CFSVA has been undertaken in collaboration with the National Statistics Bureau. This contributes to capacity building statistical services while providing more reliable quality information;

- The Government has recently approved a project to establish an agriculture production and food security information system. It is unclear whether the EC funding available in 2005 can still be used. The system could be built on specific food security indicators used in the CFSVA;

[28] Assuming that the repatriation pace is equal all over the year, the average number of Congolese refugees to be assisted for each respective year has been calculated on a monthly repatriation of 1,000 in 2007 and 830 in 2008. A 3 percent yearly growth of the population has also been applied.
[29] Ration of 605 g/day/360 days
[30] Ration of 650g/day/90 days
[31] Ration of 524 g/day/66 days

- The system above should link to the nutrition surveillance system financed by the Canadian Trust Fund to be established by WFP jointly with the Ministry of Health and UNICEF;

- The Government is regularly undertaking agriculture and animal production assessments with logistics support from FAO and WFP in data collection. The analytical framework and methodology could be strengthened for the data analysis, establishing the food balance and determining numbers of food insecure people in need of emergency food aid or other support. WFP and FAO are willing to provide technical support in reviewing the assessment approach according to the latest developments on the CFSAM guidelines and Government information needs and capacities;

- A regional training should be carried out on JAM in Rwanda, and used as a practical exercise to conduct the joint assessment. WFP, UNHCR and partner staff could join the training from Burundi and Tanzania in order to review assessment methodologies and integrate approaches and responses.

Section 4. Joint Needs Assessment in Tanzania

4.1 Background

Tanzania can be regarded as a stabilizing country in the Great Lakes region, with the Government keen to maintain security and stability while carrying a major refugee burden. Tanzania hosts the largest refugee population in Africa, many of whom have lived for more than 30 years in the Kigoma and Kagera regions, among the poorest in the country. Currently there are over 195,000 Burundians and 150,000 Congolese receiving assistance in twelve camps.

By national standards, Kagera region is considered to have good food supplies but has the lowest per capita GDP with a 3.9 percent contribution to the national economy. It had a GDP per capita of Tanzanian Shillings (Tsh) 150,000 in 2001, compared to Tsh550,000 for Dar es Salaam, whereas Kigoma had Tsh155,000. In Kagera, 29 percent of all households live below the basic poverty line (HBS 2001/2)[32], while 38 percent live below the poverty line in Kigoma. The agriculture sector is dominant in both regions contributing to about 13 percent of the country's total food production.

The following information on food security in the Kigoma and Kagera regions is drawn from the preliminary findings of a recently conducted and as yet unpublished CFSVA. The mean duration that agricultural production will sustain the household in Kagera is the lowest (3.7 months) in the entire country (mean duration in Kigoma is 6.7 months). Just over half of all income is spent on food, with households from Kagera spending a little more money on food than those in Kigoma. Almost a third of all households in Kagera are classified as food insecure (twice as many as Kigoma), and Kigoma shows the highest number of households (approximately 2 in 5) being vulnerable to food insecurity. Only around 2 in 5 households in both regions have been found to be food secure.

Refugee camps in Tanzania are located where household livelihoods are based on food crop production, mainly cereals with some lake fishing. Food production provides only between a quarter and half of household consumption per year. In these regions, there are little labour opportunities, poor market integration (low market prices are primary constraints to sale of produce in Kagera, and long distances to selling points, insufficient buyers, and lack of transportation to markets are experienced by around half of the communities in both regions) and access. The specific needs of host communities affected by the presence of numerous refugees have therefore, to be considered.

4.2 Population movement

Table 13: Tanzania Refugees (2006)

Refugees	150,000 Congolese 195,000 Burundians
Total	**345,000**

4.2.1 Refugees, migrants and repatriation

The success of the mediation between the FNL and the Burundi Government is being brokered by the Tanzanian Government, which has exercised pressure to bring both parties to the negotiation table. There is confidence that the negotiations will come to a resolution, thereby enabling the more repatriation of Burundian refugees. The outcome of these negotiations however is only one factor that will contribute to the success of repatriation.

[32] HBS – Household Budget Survey 2001

Currently, there are 195,000 Burundians in the camps. Burundian refugee planned repatriation figures for 2006 is 50,000 people, less than the repatriation figure in 2005 (62,000) and the peak of the repatriation experienced in 2004 (82,000). The pace of repatriation decreased drastically by end 2005 and early 2006 due to the combined effect of the protracted drought that struck the north-east of the country. The drought triggered a flow of 12,000 migrants into Tanzania (who since returned). Other structural factors such as access to land, health and social infrastructure, education, housing, and the overall economic prospects in the medium term influence repatriation.

In March 2006, the Tanzanian and Burundian government and UNHCR held a tripartite meeting in Dar es Salaam and agreed to launch Burundian repatriation as of June 2006. Part of the promoted repatriation exercise is to facilitate groups or leaders to go on "go and see" missions in Burundi, so they can return and inform the other refugees in the camps of the conditions in the place of origin. The successful repatriation of Burundian refugees is unlikely to be linked to the returnee package, but rather to the medium term support that they require in order to make a sustainable subsistence on return.

Of the 150,000 refugees from the DRC, approximately 90 percent originate from South Kivu province, particularly Fizi as well as a small number from Uvira. The first Tripartite agreement was signed in January 2005, and a meeting of members in September recommended that repatriation begin the following month (October 2005), based on improved conditions and reports that refugees were spontaneously repatriating in unsafe boats across Lake Tanganyika.

UNHCR began assisted voluntary repatriation for DRC refugees and between October 2005 and the third week of March 2006, 15,000 persons returned home. It is unknown how many have repatriated without registering themselves with UNHCR.

Assisted voluntary repatriation began to slow down in March 2006. The demographics of the refugees that have already repatriated seem to be imbalanced, with the majority being elderly or young children under school age. This suggests that the younger families with school age children and productive adults are more willing to remain behind. Other reasons cited for a decrease in current voluntary repatriation levels is that people are waiting for the DRC elections results to be released in July/August and that reports being sent back to family members by those that have already repatriated state that conditions are difficult in the DRC.

Table 14: Estimation of refugee/returnee movements in Tanzania (2006 to 2008)[33]

Assisted Caseloads	01/2006	Departures (voluntary repatriation)	01/2007	Departures (Voluntary repatriation)	01/2008	Departures (Voluntary repatriation)	01/2009
Burundian	195,000	50,000	145,000	75,000	70,000	30,000	40,000
Congolese refugees	150,000	35,000	115,000	35,000	80,000	30,000	50,000

4.2.2 Refugee access to food

By law, the local authorities in Tanzania enforce a total restriction on refugee movement outside the camp without proper authorization. Passes to leave the camps are issued for a maximum of 14 days, after which the refugee must apply to the authorities for a pass extension. This law is not consistently applied but is left to the discretion of local authorities. This implies that refugees can in fact leave the camp, yet if they are caught working or farming, this is construed as illegal.

[33] These figures do not take into account the population growth. Repatriation figures have to be taken with caution, in particular for 2008. They will be adjusted to actual population movements.

In some sites, land outside of the confines of the camp seems to have been made available to refugees for farming. Although enforcement is inconsistent there is no protection for refugees caught violating the restrictions. If caught, they will be subjected to a six-month imprisonment term. Movement is strictly restricted in areas with security issues between the refugee and host communities.

Burundians are perceived to be agriculturalists and kitchen gardening projects have been successful, though they only produce enough food to allow for petty trade or diet diversification. Host communities have been employing Burundians for low wages (approximately 10 percent of the wage paid to a Tanzanian, or US$0.10 per day) during cultivation and harvesting seasons and sometimes pay the refugees with food rather than cash.

The livelihoods of the DRC refugees seem to be oriented towards petty trade. In Lugufu Camp, NGOs find it difficult to raise interest in agricultural/ kitchen gardening projects. In the same camp, trade is thriving however. When NGOs provide loans via micro-credit schemes, small businesses are immediately established and loans are repaid.

Two types of markets are used by refugees for trade; a daily market within the camp and another bi-weekly 'common market', located outside, though they are not found in every camp[34]. Large transactions take place in the common market. At one common market in Lugufu, host communities truck goods to the camp border and sell wholesale goods to refugee traders for cash. Refugees then sell the goods at minimal profit margins in the common market. Any unsold goods are bartered, or traded for other commodities. As refugees are not allowed to leave the confines of the camp, they request host community traders to bring in specific goods.

Given the distance to the lake from the camps and restrictions on movement, fishing for subsistence or trade does not seem to be an option. The fish being sold in the market is brought in by the host community in bulk and sold to retailers.

Livelihood opportunities for refugees are tenuous at best. Although they attempt to engage in business they remain reliant on host populations and aid agencies.

4.2.3 Non-Food Support

UNHCR provides non-food support in various sectors: health, education, water and sanitation, domestic item provision, community services, legal assistance and income generating activities. An average of 22 litres of potable water is supplied per person/day in all camps except Nyaragusu. Support is also provided to build and maintain shelters of mud brick in order to reduce deforestation around the camps. In 2005, 7.5 percent of the refugees were involved in non-agricultural income generation and 10 percent of them received support in gardening in the camps.

4.2.4 Host Communities

The high number of refugees residing in Kigoma and Kagera regions has both positive and negative effects on host communities. Positive aspects include services gained from the international community and benefits from economic opportunities created by the refugee presence such as the availability of cheap labour, particularly in the agricultural sector. Adverse consequences include environmental pressure on natural resources and security problems (such as increased crime and robbery).

[34]Some common markets have been closed around the Burundian camps as the authorities suspect they are used for the sale and trade of small firearms.

Host populations have access to health and water facilities in the camps and get assistance though a number of WFP interventions: school feeding, home based care, Food For Training and institutional feeding. Around 2 percent of the PRRO resources are channelled through projects for host communities and since 1995, approximately US$25 million has been spent by UNHCR on projects for host communities.

4.3 Food availability and markets

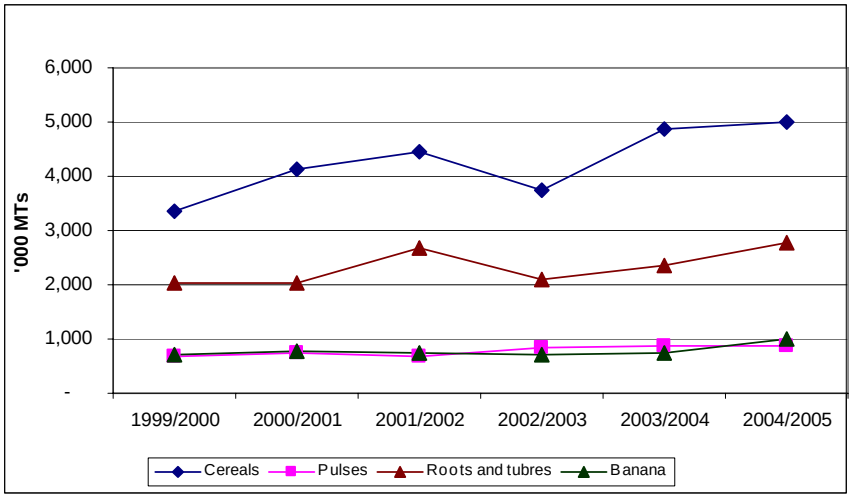
4.3.1 Food production and supply

Tanzanian food availability and markets are characterised as follows:

- Tanzania has been self-sufficient in its staple crop of maize during 'normal' years with food surpluses in 2003/04 and 2004/05;
- Assessments and predictions for the 2006 season indicate that drought in over 85 percent of districts has severely affected food and cash crop production for the 2005/2006 agricultural season;
- Crop production has significantly decreased by between 50 - 70 percent in some drought affected parts of the country;
- The National Cereal Balance sheet indicates a deficit of major cereals totalling nearly 398,000 MT between October 2005 and May 2006.

Tanzania is usually self-sufficient in maize during normal years but food shortages have recurred in many parts of central and north-eastern regions over the past decade due to a series of poor harvests caused by drought and flooding. Although the situation improved significantly in the 2004-2005 seasons, these regions remain susceptible to climatic and economic shocks.

Figure 13: Total Production of Cereals, Pulses, Roots and Tubers and Banana in Tanzania (1999-2005)



Source: Ministry of Agriculture

The Food Security Information Team (FSIT), composed of Government members, International Agencies and NGOs was established in May 2002. It is coordinated by the Disaster Management Department of the Office of the Prime Minister and the National Food Security Division of the Ministry of Agriculture. According to FSIT, aggregate food production decreased

by 16 percent in 2002-2003 but increased by 17 percent in 2003-2004 and 9 percent in 2004-2005 due to slight increases in cereal, roots and tubers production (see figure 13, above). Production of pulses has been relatively stable. Production growth resulted from good rainfall in the 2003-2004 season compared to 2002-2003 that was drought affected.
Tanzania's population growth rate has been at 2% for the last 5 years with a total of over 37 million persons.

Table 15: Tanzania Population Figures

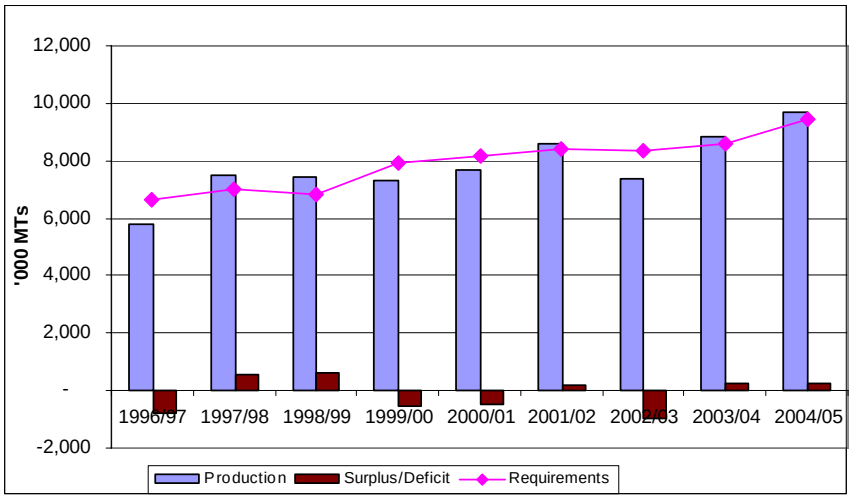
Series	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004
Population Growth (Annual %)	2	2	2	2	2
Total Population	34,762,710	35,486,280	36,204,930	36,918,880	37,626,920

Source: World Development Indicators database

Assessment predictions for the 2006 season by the FSIT in January 2006 indicated a near total failure of the short rains (*vuli*) in the bimodal rainfall areas and below normal and poorly dispersed ongoing long rains (*msimu*) in the unimodal rainfall areas. This severely affected food and cash crop production for the 2005/2006 agricultural season. Over 85% of all districts in Tanzania are experiencing tight food supplies due to drought. The FSIT further notes that all major staple foods (maize, millet, sorghum, banana and cassava) have been adversely affected by drought thus limiting the "food options" for poorer households in the affected areas.

Crop production has significantly decreased by between 50-70% in drought-affected parts of the country. The National Cereal Balance sheet indicates a deficit of major cereals, notably maize, sorghum, millet and rice totalling nearly 398,000 MT for 2005/2006.

Figure 14: Tanzania Food Balances (1999-2005)



Source: Food Security Information Team (FSIT)

Table 16: Tanzania Cereal Balances 2005/06

Item	'000 MTs
Domestic Cereal Production	5,403
Opening Stocks	102
Anticipated Imports	114
Domestic Cereal Availability	**5,505**
Domestic Requirement	5,867
SGR Replenishment	150
Domestic Cereal Utilization	**6,017**
Deficit	**398**

Source: VAM – WFP Tanzania

4.3.2 Market and food price developments

Markets and Food Prices in Tanzania are characterised as follows:

- Markets in surplus and deficit regions of Tanzania are not well integrated due to high transaction costs;
- Recent trends in food prices have shown a steady increase in the drought affected areas since October last year;
- Extensive border trade between Tanzania and neighbouring food insecure countries (Kenya, Malawi and DRC) has further exacerbated the situation in Tanzania by pushing up cereal prices.

Markets in surplus and deficit regions of Tanzania are not well integrated due to the high transaction costs involved in moving food. Absolute spatial marketing margins are quite high in Tanzania[35] and these margins can only be decreased through infrastructure improvement and rural transportation policies that reduce transportation costs.

As a result of the current drought, recent trends in food prices have shown a steady increase in the affected areas since October last year (Figure 15). Cross border trade with food deficit areas of Kenya has also contributed to the increase in wholesale prices for maize in Arusha. In addition to the transactions costs of trade, the low purchasing power of the drought-affected populations meant that demand is not able to attract movement of food to these areas.

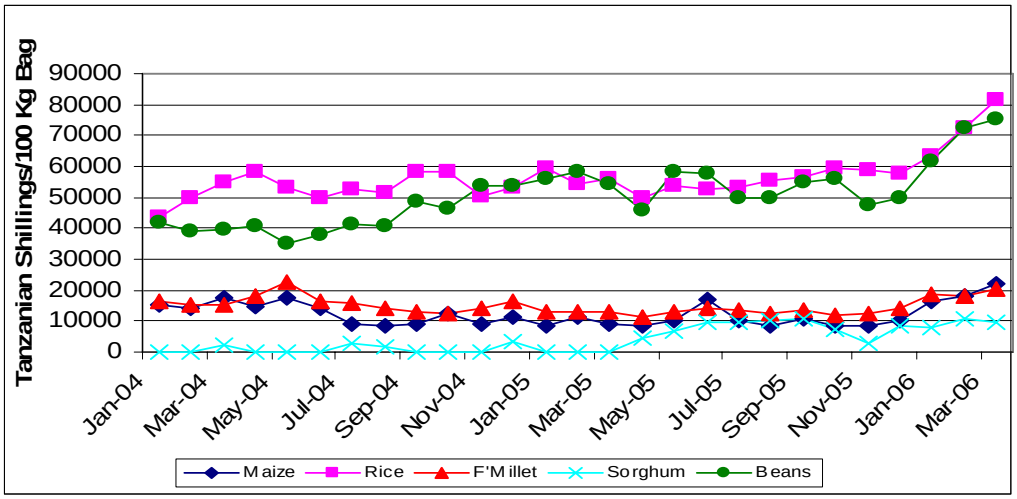
The extensive border trade between Tanzania and neighbouring food insecure countries, Kenya, Malawi and DRC, has further exacerbated the situation by pushing up cereal prices, with some places recording increases as high as 85% above normal prices for staple foods. The demand from neighbouring regions has raised cereal prices significantly.

According to a 2004 study by International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI)[36], rice is largely a tradable[37] in Tanzania, and world rice prices have a positive influence on Tanzanian rice prices. Maize, on the other hand, the primary food crop in the country, behaves like a tradable in well-connected markets and like a non-tradable for isolated markets. In isolated markets, maize prices are influenced only by regional and national production in the most recent harvest. This further stresses what is currently observed in Tanzanian markets related to the influence of maize prices by supply and price levels in neighbouring, easily accessible

[35] Delgado C., Minot N., and Tiongco, M. July 2004. Evidence and implications of non-tradability of food staples in Tanzania 1983-1998
[36] Delgado C., Minot N., and Tiongco, M. July 2004. Evidence and implications of non-tradability of food staples in Tanzania 1983-1998
[37] A staple is said to be tradable when movements in its domestic price would be largely determined by movements in world prices for the good in question and the market exchange rate, through either changes in imports (for importables) or changes in exports (for exportable). Conversely, a staple is said to be a non-tradable when its price will be determined primarily by the local and national supply of the good.

countries/regions. The same study shows that fresh cassava in both isolated and well-connected markets behaves as a non-tradable.

Figure 15: Tanzania Wholesale Prices for Key Commodities (Jan 2004-Mar 2006)



Source: Ministry of Agriculture

Livestock prices have significantly decreased since 2005. The prices of cattle have dropped by nearly 75%, resulting in a deterioration in terms of trade between livestock and food crops.
A marginal food surplus from the 2004-2005 seasons amounting to 103% of Strategic Grain Reserve (SGR) was concentrated in the "grain basket" regions of southern Tanzania. These surpluses were not transported in large quantities to the central and northern regions, due to high transaction costs and low levels of purchasing power in the deficit areas. Instead, a large proportion of this surplus was exported to neighbouring Malawi, Zambia and the DRC, where demand has been high following the current acute food shortages in these countries. The Government of Tanzania made it attractive for private traders to import grain by removing import tariffs for an initial period of three months (January-March 2006).

In response to the recent drought as well as in normal years, cereal imports have been used to avert price spikes in coastal urban areas and in those areas where food is fully tradable. In addition, the Government has used subsidized food to keep food prices lower than they would be otherwise in cash crop zones thus protecting the livelihoods of many small-scale farmers who depend on cash crops and rely on purchased food.

4.3.3 Options for food procurement

WFP purchased food items locally as per table 10 below. The main items purchased between 1999 and 2006 were maize (84% of total purchases), beans (11% of total purchases) and salt (5% of total purchases). In 2005, 37,582 MT of food (maize, beans, and salt) were purchased, out of which 90% were used in-country and 10% for operations in the region.

Table 16: Tanzanian Local Food Purchases (1999-February 2006) in Metric Tons

Commodity	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006
Maize	8,779	33,400	36,853	29,330	32,493	16,726	33,303	1,374
Beans	1,000	3,415	4,500	5,257	7,124	567	3,323	0
Salt	1,260	2,210	1,586	2,171	1,625	1,569	956	0
Sorghum	0	0	0	400	400	0	0	0
Sugar	0	0	0	86	0	0	0	0
Maize meal	0	0	0	0	445	0	0	0
Total	**11,039**	**39,025**	**42,939**	**37,244**	**42,087**	**18,862**	**37,582**	**1,374**

4.3.4 Key findings

- The country has current imports of about 150,000 MT of Mexican/ USA maize and 10,000 MT from Uganda, under official and relaxed trade regulations. Another 30,000 MT of maize has been imported from Uganda through informal cross border trade;

- Traders normally purchase 80 percent of maize directly from farmers and the balance from small traders;

- There is export from Tanzania's maize producing regions to the neighbouring countries of Zambia/Malawi, Burundi and Kenya due to the easy access of these countries compared to the food deficit regions of Tanzania. The neighbouring countries also offer higher prices as they face a maize deficit;

- Currently the government will not restrict trade within the country but restricts international exports;

- Suppliers could only commit to provide 500-800 MT/tender/contract before the next harvest;

- The price of imported and locally produced maize is the same at US$310/MT. The prices will stabilize within this range until the next harvest (interviews with suppliers). It is predicted that prices in the coming harvest will range between US$150-180/MT for maize;

4.3.5 Recommendations

- Results from the assessment of food availability and markets have indicated that Tanzania currently has very limited stocks of locally produced maize and beans due to insufficient rainfall during the short rainy season and extensive cross-border trade with neighbouring countries that are also drought affected. Recommendations on possible local procurement will be based on estimates of local production by the FSIT in June 2006.

The following recommendations apply to all three countries:

- Direct purchase from farmer groups are highly encouraged;
- Increased communication and information sharing on procurement with government and other organizations (international and local institutions) is encouraged;
- Communicate on the status of markets in terms of prices and food availability and provide recommendations for local purchases;
- Conduct detailed local market surveys on prices and for quantities available prior to purchase.

4.5 Nutrition and food utilization

WFP food assistance appears to be the most stable and sustainable source of food for the refugees, and as recommended by the JAM mission of 2004 and reiterated in 2005[38], the individual daily ration has been set at a nutritional value of 2,100 Kcal per day per person as a way to cover the nutritional needs of the population. A nutritional survey to determine the status of under-five and school children, lactating and pregnant women was conducted in September 2005 in all camps as a part of the nutritional surveillance system put in place to follow up the health status of the refugee population.

The main objective was to describe the nutritional status of the refugee children and associated factors, as well as to assess vaccination and breastfeeding coverage. It was also meant to determine the prevalence of anaemia and worm infestation among school children, pregnant and lactating women.

4.5.1 Refugee nutrition overview

Table 18: Refugee Nutritional Status in Tanzania

Indices	Severe	Global
WASTING	0.3% (CI 95%: 0.1-0.4)	2.8% (CI 95%: 2.4-3.3)
UNDERWEIGHT	2.7% (CI 95%: 2.2-3.3)	22 % (CI 95%: 20.9-23.2)
STUNTING	9.9% (CI 95%: 9.1-10.7)	36.2% (CI 95%: 34.9-37.5)
Anaemia prevalence under five		40.1%
Anaemia prevalence Pregnant Woman		30%
Anaemia prevalence lactating woman		18.9%
Anaemia prevalence school children		18%
Children at risk of Underweight		40.5%
Children at risk of wasting		18.7%

Acute malnutrition is due to a combination of lack of food, poor micronutrients, and ill health that particularly affects children under five. Underlying causes include inappropriate care practices, poor environmental health such as water/sanitation, weak health infrastructure and insufficient or inappropriate foods.

[38] WFP/UNHCR Joint Assessment Mission, Great Lakes Region – Tanzania, 8-14 November 2005.

The results, as presented in the above table, show a stable nutritional situation in relation to acute global and severe malnutrition within the normal acceptable international threshold. However, it shows very high rates of stunted and underweight children.

There is a clear linkage between morbidity incidence and nutritional status: children with diseases such as diarrhoea, acute respiratory infections (IRA) and malaria are significantly more wasted, underweight and stunted. They have lower mean Z-scores than those who were not ill.

A striking problem is the level of anaemia. The values are higher than the acceptable international values with 40.1 percent for children under five and 30 percent for pregnant women.

There are differences in nutritional status between camps. This raises an important issue to be further investigated.

In protracted refugee situations where the population is dependant on humanitarian and food assistance, the value of the food will greatly determine nutritional status. It is essential that the refugee populations be given sufficient macro and micronutrients to support growth and development. The following is the recommended general ration for the refugees:

Table 19: Recommended refugee ration

Product	Quantity (g)	Kcal
Cereal (grain)	410 (or 380 g cereal meal)[39]	1435 (1368)
Pulses	120	399.6
CSB	40	150.4
Oil	20	177
Salt	10	
Total	600	2,162 (2095)

Given the high prevalence of anaemia, particular attention is to be given to ration quality, in particular regard to iron content. The refugee ration provided covers 90 percent of the daily recommendation in the best case scenario when 100 percent of the ration is distributed. In host communities where the prevalence of anaemia is extremely high, the food rations provided in the vulnerable feeding programme is limited in iron content and only covers between 50-70 percent of the daily recommended amount.

4.5.2 Care practices

The survey results show a high coverage of breastfeeding with 90.4 percent for the age group of 6-11.9 months and 76.7 percent in the age group of 12-23.9 months having been breast fed the day before the survey took place. Unfortunately, practices on the introduction of complementary foods were not properly covered and therefore difficult to assess. There are many cultural practices that prevent exclusive breast-feeding during the first six months of life. Water and sugared water are often given within the first few days of life and other foods are introduced very early. During the visit, health workers in the camps acknowledged that there was little or no knowledge regarding infant feeding practices and cultural practices on complementary feeding to young children.

[39] Values in parenthesis relate to cereal meal.

4.5.3 Host community nutrition

The host community are **worse off** than the refugees with extremely high prevalence of anaemia (almost double the rate of the refugees at 66.7 percent)[40]. Anaemia, particularly in the under five population, is a major public health issue. WHO states that levels ≥ 40 percent should ideally result in the mass distribution of iron supplements. This is, however, difficult to implement in the given context. It is therefore essential to target the high-risk groups within the host population as well as those groups in the refugee camps.

4.6 Programme approach and exit strategy

4.6.1 Repatriation

It is unlikely that the Government will allow the refugees to be integrated into the local community and therefore prospects of refugee self-reliance are limited. Although some income generation and small scale agricultural activities are being conducted, these are mostly illegal. As such, food assistance to refugees must continue. The only durable solution to their food security is repatriation.

As with the refugees in Rwanda, the outlook for the repatriation of Burundian refugees is positive, whilst uncertainty surrounds the repatriation of the DRC refugees.

The Tripartite meeting that took place in Dar es Salaam in March will lead to promoted repatriation as of mid-2006. An increase in repatriation is therefore expected, which will correspond to the end of the school year and the Season B crops in Tanzania, two factors impacting the willingness to return.

Currently, there are 195,000 Burundians in the camps. If UNHCR planned repatriation figures of 50,000 people in 2006, 75,000 in 2007, and again 30,000 by 2008, then the number of Burundian refugees to be assisted would drop to **149,000** (including 3 percent population increase) **by the end of 2006** and **76,000 by the end of 2007**, allowing for a final phase out possibly by end 2009. However, these are tentative figures and will depend on the success of the planned promoted repatriation. Current repatriation figures are lower than expected, and so these planned figures have to be taken with caution.

The 150,000 refugees from the DRC will also require continued food assistance in the camps. Given that repatriation at the moment is voluntary, and that the ability to facilitate this repatriation by UNHCR is logistically constrained to 35,000 in 2006, at best, assistance could be reduced to feeding **118,000** refugees in camps **by the end of 2006** (including 3 percent population increase). Logistical constraints need to be overcome to increase repatriation figures should more people indicate a willingness to return to the DRC in future. Still, with repatriation planning figures of 35,000 Congolese in 2007 and 30,000 in 2008, **a caseload of 55,000 will remain in Tanzania by beginning of 2009**.

4.7 Recommendations for WFP intervention

4.7.1 Food aid assistance to refugees

The JAM undertaken in November 2005 with the participation of the Government of Tanzania, ECHO, UNICEF and representatives of the governments of France, Germany, Belgium, USA (incl. USAID/FFP) and Finland, recommended that WFP continue to distribute a 2,100 Kcal ration in 2006.

[40] Nutrition survey results in refugee camps in western Tanzania, September 2005 – A joint survey conducted by UNHCR, UNICEF and WFP in collaboration with Health Implementing Partners

The mission also recommended a study be undertaken on the contribution of self-reliance (IGA) activities to the food security of refugee households to inform the next JAM at the end of 2006.

Despite the fact that WFP food rations for most of 2005 were below the recommended level of 2,100 Kcal, the nutritional status of the refugee population seems to be stable as reported by the September 2005 nutritional survey. Still, a number of improvements in nutrition interventions are recommended:

- Improve the quality of the ration to address micronutrient deficiencies (iron deficiencies) through supplementation or fortification of the ration;
- Strengthen and expand the MCH programme at the camp level in order to improve the promotion of appropriate complementary feeding practices at community based centres;
- Strengthen health and nutrition education activities at the community level;
- Include underweight children in SFCs;
- Improve the quality of the ration distributed to the host communities in accordance with the level of micronutrient deficiencies.

UNHCR non-food support and services will be continued.

In view of the fact that refugees sell a part of the distributed commodities (usually cereals) and considering market supply, a food voucher programme could be piloted for the purchase of preferred staple foods. It could be combined with a self-reliance programme including the provision of labour to refugees for services in the camps and for the host communities, such as for environmental rehabilitation or agriculture labour intensive activities (such as multiplication and replanting of mosaic resistant cassava, or environmental restoration).

In order to better understand the constraints on the return of the refugees, especially from the DRC, an assessment in the place of return may be linked back to the household survey to be undertaken in camps in Tanzania. The return package that includes food aid for 3 months may need to be adjusted.

4.7.2 Host communities

Over the period 2005-2007, a joint FAO/ UNDP/ UNICEF/ UNIDO/ WFP human security project funded by Japan is supporting human security surveillance and the reduction of circulation of small arms. It is contributing to farmers' food security by reducing post-harvest losses, as well as contributing to basic complementary education, HIV/AIDS awareness, environmental protection and improved water and sanitation services. It aims to strengthen host community capacity to cope with the refugee presence. During 2006-2007, UNHCR will also join the programme.

4.7.3 Beneficiaries and food resources[41]

Table 20: WFP Tanzania Beneficiaries and Food Resources 2007/ 2008

Origin/ Timeframe	January 2006	January 2007	Average 2007	January 2008	Average 2008	January 2009
Burundians[42]	195,000	149,000	118,000	76,000	59,000	46,000
Congolese	150,000	118,000	105,000	85,000	64,000	55,000
Total refugees	345,000	267,000	223,000	151,000	123,000	101,000
Host population		10,000	10,000	7,000	7,000	
Total			**233,000**		**130 ,000**	
Tonnage (incl. TFP and SFP)			**50,328**		**28,080**	

4.7.4 Follow-up surveys and assessments

- The JAM recommendation to undertake a household food security survey of refugees is reiterated to better understand their self-reliance and the linkages between household coping mechanisms and the level of food security and nutritional status;
- If technically feasible, this survey may be combined with the yearly nutrition survey;
- Equally an in-depth nutritional survey in which care practices and health services are better evaluated can be suggested as a part of this study. This information should be available to the next JAM in order to inform recommendations on ration size for 2007;
- Actual repatriation figures will have to be closely monitored in order to adjust food requirements and ensure that funding and food pipeline reflect the changes.

[41] Assuming that the repatriation pace is not equal all over the year, the average number of Burundian refugees to be assisted for each respective year has been calculated on a monthly repatriation of 4,500 for the first 6 month of 2007 and monthly repatriation of 8,000 for the last semester of the year. Similarly, the figures of 600 monthly repatriates for the first semester of 2008 and 4,400 for the second half of the year were used. A 3% yearly growth of the population has also been applied. For the Congolese refugees, the same approach was used with figures of 1,300 monthly repatriates for early 2007 and 4,500 for the second half of the year, and figures of 1,800 and 3,180 for the two semesters of 2008.

[42] Ration of 600g/pers/360 days

Section 5: Regional Management Structure Review

5.1 Background to the review

During the discussion on the proposed PRRO in the November 2005 session of the Executive Board (EB.2/2005), concerns were raised regarding the management arrangements of the project and whether it was still appropriate that overall coordination should continue to rest with the Regional Bureau (RB). The proposal was not clear on how it was to be managed at regional level nor on the advantages of the regional model over country based approaches. The Board therefore requested a review of the management structure.

Simultaneously within WFP, the regional management framework for intervention was being questioned. In the Operations Review (carried out by OD in 2005) Country Offices (COs) raised concerns and called for clarification on how regional projects fit within the WFP approach to decentralisation, particularly with regard to delegating authority to COs and roles and responsibilities of the RBs. Moreover, more clarification was called for on the circumstances under which regional approaches were appropriate, and when to move to other strategies. In addition, questions of accountability became an issue with the regional model.

These issues are relevant to past Great Lakes PRRO evaluations. The March 2005 PRRO Evaluation recommended a comprehensive review of coordination and management mechanisms. The 2002 Evaluation also raised questions regarding accountability and management and indicated that, despite having been established for seven years, roles and responsibilities between the COs and the RB were not well articulated or understood.

It was decided to review the regional approach in this PRRO in concert with the JNA, specifically focusing on key issues important to the comparison of regional and country-based approaches. The aim was to determine whether the regional approach remained justified as an intervention structure to address the needs of the Great Lakes Region. A secondary aim was to examine lessons learned regarding more generic questions raised on the utility of regional operations.

The key issues (and assumptions) for special focus were distilled out of previous evaluations as well as the 2005 Operations Review. These fell within the following broad areas:

- Flexibility (and allocation of resources);
- Optimisation of Support (efficiency);
- Advocacy/resource mobilization;
- Funding;
- Logistics;
- Consistency of Model, and;
- Coherence of the regional approach with in-country strategies.

During the review consultation took place at all levels. WFP staff were consulted at HQ, at the Kampala RB (known as the Operations Department Kampala or ODK), at each CO and in a number of key sub-offices. Key donor representatives were consulted in Tanzania, Rwanda and Burundi as well as at regional level (Nairobi). Consultations were held with Government officials, other UN partners and with some NGOs in all three countries. Apart from various in-country debriefings there were also two important round up debriefings with key donors in Nairobi, and with ODK and CO representatives. In both of these debriefings, preliminary findings were presented for comments and feedback.

5.2 A history of intervention

A regional approach has been applied in response to relief and recovery needs in the Great Lakes Region since 1995. It began initially as a regional Emergency Operation (EMOP) covering six countries and then progressed to the current PRRO covering Tanzania, Rwanda and Burundi.

Table 21: WFP Projects in the Great Lakes Region (1995-2007)

Project	Start date	End date	Period months	Countries					
EMOP 5624.00	01/04/1995	30/04/1996	12	Tanzania	Rwanda	Burundi	Uganda	DRC	RC
EMOP 5624.01	01/05/1996	29/01/1997	9	Tanzania	Rwanda	Burundi	Uganda	DRC	RC
EMOP 5624.02	01/12/1997	31/05/1999	18	Tanzania	Rwanda	Burundi	Uganda	DRC	RC
EMOP 5624.03	01/10/1998	31/12/1999	15	Tanzania	Rwanda	Burundi	Uganda	DRC	RC
PRRO 06077.00	01/08/1999	31/07/2001	24	Tanzania	Rwanda	Burundi	Uganda		
PRRO 10062.00	01/08/2002	31/01/2003	18	Tanzania	Rwanda	Burundi	Uganda		
PRRO 10062.01	01/02/2003	31/01/2006	24	Tanzania	Rwanda	Burundi			
PRRO 10062.02	01/02/2006	31/01/2007	12	Tanzania	Rwanda	Burundi			

Over this 11-year period the situation evolved and the operational context changed. While refugees and IDPs are still present in all three countries, they no longer represent the majority of the project's targeted beneficiaries in Rwanda or Burundi. While in Tanzania, refugees are the main project focus representing around 97 percent of the beneficiaries, they are not in Rwanda (11 percent) or in Burundi (1 percent). Both DRC and Uganda have separate projects covering refugees and IDPs and are no longer part of the regional project.

Congolese refugees make up a significant proportion of the current refugee caseload in this PRRO representing 42 percent of the refugee caseload in Tanzania, nearly 100 percent in Burundi (not counting asylum seekers) and 94 percent in Rwanda. As the DRC was not part of the project, clearly the flexibility principle of '*food following people'* is not applicable here. With regard to the DRC, expansions or reductions in these numbers have to be handled through separate country programme adjustments. The donors and the respective governments all questioned this inconsistency. In addition, Rwandan and Burundian refugees are located in many other neighbouring countries, for instance some 50,000 Rwandan refugees residing in camps in 11 countries, with the largest group in Uganda (15,600), and DRC (10,000), yet these are handled outside this PRRO.

5.3 Flexibility

A major rationale given for implementing a regional PRRO was to ensure that in times of turmoil, food would be readily available to refugees and that the '*food would follow the people*' when returning home. It was often cited that the regional approach provided **much greater flexibility** for the movement of resources under these circumstances. This was a major founding reason for the regional approach being adopted for the Great Lakes PRRO.

5.3.1 Flexibility with regard to resources

The principle of flexibility in the provision of resources has **not** generally provided the advantages that were originally envisaged.

Overall, the majority of the resources donated to the project have been **earmarked** towards the respective specific countries and were not available for flexible use. The provision of directed resources is a common trend amongst donors, with many having policies to this effect, and this has been a constant feature of this project. During the last two years, approximately 86 percent of the resources provided were country-directed leaving little potential for such flexibility.

This was also noted in the 2002 Evaluation which reported that '*the PRRO's regional design, although intended to enhance flexibility for shifting resources between countries as and when circumstances require, has not been able to do so*' (Office of Evaluation – (OEDE)/2002/17, page 7, September 2002). The 2005 Evaluation came to the same conclusion; noting that the majority of resources for the PRRO tended to be donor directed to a respective country, thus restricting flexibility.

5.3.2 Changed conditions may no longer require flexibility

In the initial period when the conditions were changing quickly and were uncertain, the regional approach was seen as essential in addressing the problem. However now, in the current circumstances, the rationale for such flexibility is not as evident and it appears that COs can adequately accommodate any need for change required. For instance, recent refugee movements are orderly allowing the planning and accommodation of resource movements within country projects or by use of budget revisions when necessary.

5.3.3 Flexibility in allocation

For those resources that were non-directed and flexible, the mission looked at whether the regional approach provided some advantages. A brief description of the processes involved in the allocation of such donations is presented in the following box.

Allocation of resources

With non-directed donations, the allocation approach tends to be based on pipeline projections and breaks. In general, if such donations are made available these are allocated to the respective country operation in a similar way to general multilateral resources. [In fact it was difficult to fully discern whether the 'non-earmarked' donations to the regional PRRO were actually multilateral in nature and broken down into such 'sub-multilateral' directed donations or were specifically provided by the donors to the 'regional' PRRO as a regionally directed donation]. Nevertheless, if such a donation were available in either form, ODMP (Programme Management Division) in HQ would identify it for the PRRO and would seek advice from the bureau pipeline officer on its allocation by country. For programming of both types of earmarked and non-earmarked resources and for the allocation of the Direct Support Costs (DSC) / Other Direct Operational Costs (ODOC) and Landside Transport Storage and Handling (LTSH) this was necessary regardless.

In most cases, the bureau pipeline officer proposes the breakdown in allocation of such donations on the basis of pipeline estimates and projections, although these are periodically adjusted following consultations with COs. This worked reasonably smoothly in the past when there was adequate resources but became problematic as shortages of resources meant that the pipeline could not be maintained and each CO had its own case for prioritisation. There were no set criteria for allocation under these circumstances.

Overall, the processes for allocating non-directed, i.e. flexible, resources between the countries within the regional PRRO were not discernibly different from that applied to non-regional programmes and projects. In either case, the same processes were followed with the regional pipeline officer together with ODMP consulting on allocations in concert with the COs. RB pipeline officers were the focal point on behalf of the COs in presenting all the RB country needs. Overall there were no major advantages provided by the regional approach that could not be accommodated within normal allocations procedures.

5.3.4 Cross-country subsidization

The potential for cross-country subsidisation was one rationale for a regional PRRO both for the reallocation of food resources and also for funds. This aspect has proved to be continuously contentious as the Regional project model was never able to do this satisfactorily. Generally, as the COs were either short on resources, uncertain of future donations, and working on very short budget planning horizons, they rarely felt that they had sufficient 'spare capacity' in terms of food, cash or people to allow them leeway to subsidise other countries.

One CO indicated that given the uncertain resourcing situation they only had a three-month certainty period as a realistic budgeting horizon. In response they would normally protect staffing capacities as an essential priority. This was hardly conducive to allow resources to move to other countries.

All COs longed to have a longer-term liquidity position with cash and food but found it difficult to build up a reserve. Some CO staff saw the fact they were working within a regional project as making this more complex – they would not be able to build up their 'investment capital' with regional resources given that these would be channelled to fill the most immediate needs in other countries. They thought that this would be less the case and more under their control if they were using a country-based approach.

Another issue related to cross-country subsidization was the question of whether a regional project was the most appropriate vehicle for this type of model. Many COs in WFP need both technical and programme support that is supposed to be provided within the current decentralised framework. Both RBs and key HQ units have as their primary function to provide support with the aim of strengthening COs with less capacity and resources. Prioritising bureau support to those areas where it was most needed was seen as a normal function of the bureau and not necessarily only available within a regional PRRO.

5.3.5 Loans and borrowing

The regional approach did not provide any additional flexibility over what would normally be available in lending and borrowing processes. While loans and borrowing took place between the respective countries in the PRRO, these processes were not dependent on the regional project structure. The COs approached borrowing outside their country the same way whether it was for their activities under the regional PRRO or for country based projects. To address critical shortages in any of their activities each CO tended to look to the wider pool than just the PRRO countries to seek borrowing opportunities, particularly from much larger programmes with potentially more available stocks. For example, recent loans have been arranged for their shortages in the regional PRRO with the Sudan (Southern) and Somalia COs.

5.3.6 Funding flexibility

This issue is dealt with in the next section. However there has been considerable and long standing debate amongst generations of CO staff who grapple with different approaches to allocating funds in this regional approach, especially with regard to DSC and LTSH funds. In 2006 they have returned to a standard DSC allocation for each country on a per ton basis, as

per their project budget, for the resources they received. This, in essence, has moved more towards the equivalent of a CO project based approach.

5.3.7 Flexibility to make budget revisions

In the management of change the regional approach does not provide substantive additional flexibility over those available in separate country approaches. Changed circumstances still require Budget Revisions whether related to a change in activities within each country or for movement of resources across borders, and this could just as easily be managed within a country-based approach. A country-based Budget Revision process is also a clearer way to manage such change as it requires the COs to provide proper justification and holds them more accountable. Under the regional PRRO umbrella, this has not always been the case, a point highlighted in previous evaluations. These evaluations indicated that Budget Revisions were not done systematically nor promptly, and that the management of change within each CO was not as efficient as it should have been.

5.3.8 Flexibility to expand

Other problems complicating the allocation approach have come when considering whether to address natural disasters such as drought within the PRRO. COs could not see clearly how a regional PRRO would accommodate this, especially as to the boosting of DSC and how this would be shared between countries. As a result, COs preferred to see it dealt with in a separate operation.

In summary:

- On balance, there are now no major gains in flexibility in the regional approach;
- Majority of resources are directed, cutting down on flexibility advantages;
- The large and unpredictable population movements are no longer a feature;
- Flexibilities can still be adequately achieved within country-based approaches.

5.4 Efficiency and optimization of support

Another justification for the regional approach are the efficiencies it provides in having staff and resources at RB level so that services can be optimised in providing technical support and backstopping to the COs. It was also argued that centrally managed funds would allow resources to be more efficiently used where needs were greatest.

This review assessed; (a) the extent to which such efficiencies existed over and above the normal support roles of the bureau and (b) the net value added by the regional approach as compared to a country based approach.

5.4.1 Current structure

In the current project DSC funding is determined on the basis of separate budgets for each country and the bureau, which are then combined to represent the total DSC requirement. Under the project proposal put to the Executive Board, this totalled US$42.8 million and was split proportionally as follows (a proportional split applicable to the current 12-month approved programme):

Table 22: DSC Funding Proportions

	ODK Bureau	Tanzania	Rwanda	Burundi	Total
Total DSC share:	14%	31%	14%	41%	100%

[These proportions represented DSC budgeted amounts against total project DSC budget]

A key feature of this regional approach that is not found in country-based approaches is that project funds are made available to the Regional Bureau (ODK) for both staff and non-staff costs in addition to the country offices for their project costs. The breakdown of this arrangement was as follows:

Table 23: 3-Year Budget Breakdown (ODK budget as a % of PRRO Budget)

	Total	ODK share	ODK % of Total
Total 3 Year DSC budget	$42, 747, 858	$5,819,398	14%
Total Staff + related costs	$33,814,180	$4,668,720	14%
International Staff	$13,943,430	$2,495,070	18%
National Officers	$962,118	$437,118	45%
Local GS Staff	$12,962,355	$833,355	6%
Int. Consultants	472,000	$310,000	65%
Total Recurrent Costs	$6,542,358	$949,358	15%

The capacities that this funding support provided to the RB were significant. For instance the PRRO provided funding support for 6.5 international posts in the bureau (an increase of 33 percent over the bureau's standard Programme Support and Administration (PSA) biennium budgeted numbers). It also provided for an extra 5 National Officers (a 52 percent increase over PSA budget) and 25 General Service posts (100 percent increase).

Within the recurrent costs budget, the largest contribution went to the RB rental costs of $419,769 (about $140,000 per annum or 26 percent of the total PRRO rental budget). The added direct costs planned for use in the Bureau added about 2 percent to the total project's Direct Operational Costs (DOC) charges for each metric ton.

5.4.2 The funding allocation approach

While the additional central regional capacity enhancements that this approach provided were recognized, especially in the early period when a streamlined approach to an evolving problem was called for, the model itself appears to have been persistently dogged by problems with regard to determining the optimal allocation of DSC funds between the three countries and the RB. This has been an issue subject to a wide range of consultation exercises and collaborative agreements aimed at arriving at mutually acceptable arrangements, especially in recent circumstances when the operation was under-resourced.

In interviews with finance staff and many Country Directors, both past and present, they all highlighted that the management and allocation of DSC funds within the regional approach proved a contentious issue that absorbed much RB, CO and HQ staff time in arriving at compromise. Extensive efforts were made to ensure that this problem was addressed in a collaborative manner, efforts that could have been better employed elsewhere. Previous evaluations also refer to this issue.

For example, in the previous project extension, DSC was allocated on the basis of total budgeted DSC percentages irrespective of which country received the donation. ODK retained a portion to fund international staff costs and then each country was allocated sufficient funds for their staff as per the approved budget. The remaining balance was distributed between COs and the RB according to the percentage formula based on respective CO/ RB budgeted DSC as percentage of the total project budget. This allocation approach was the outcome of considerable and lengthy negotiations between the COs, RB and involved the HQ finance people, yet it still proved problematic. Its major drawback was that funds were de-linked from the

country food allocation and therefore did not reflect real costs/ workload associated with managing the resources in country (the basis for WFP's current direct costing approach).

Due to the problems above, this approach has now been abandoned. From March 2006, DSC is allocated to each country on the basis of their respective budgeted DSC rate per MT for the food allocation they receive. DSC was determined with each donation at the overall project's DSC rate (the general one) and then provided to the country at that country's rate, which, depending on whether it was higher or lower, provided an overall project surplus/deficit balance to cover bureau requirements and future project deficits.

The COs felt this was clearer and helped to address some earlier problems, but they were still uncomfortable with the funding arrangements to cover bureau costs (see below). The feature of having a centrally managed fund for surpluses and for bureau costs was still seen as problematic. Similar concerns remained over clarity with regard to the funds, what the balances were over time, how they would be used, and on the processes for prioritisation when resources were limited, both for in-country activities as well as for centrally funded services.

Overall, far from providing improved efficiencies, the fund allocation approach probably added further layers of confusion and has been a continuing major problematic in the use of the regional approach.

5.5 Value added: Is the regional approach efficient?

The planned PRRO DSC budget to cover Bureau costs, if fully funded for the 2006/2007 period, will represent nearly one third of the ODK total budget (biennium PSA plus PRRO funds). This significant contribution to the RB budget is the result of early requirements to address the Great Lakes emergency, and the subsequent establishment of the RB.

Many reasons used in the past for establishing central funding have been subsumed into the normal roles and responsibilities that bureaux are expected to provide in supporting COs and this has made it difficult to justify the need to have 'extra' benefits. In the RB, apart from a Senior Programme Advisor who was appointed with the Great Lakes PRRO as his primary responsibility, most key bureau support units confirmed that they could not differentiate between support provided to the ODK regional countries from that provided to the three Great Lakes PRRO countries; all were treated equally. All agreed that the extra funding did not transfer directly into an equivalent level of extra attention and support for these three countries. Even the benefits in consolidated reporting, budget revisions, and advocacy, seen as being an 'extra' central service provided for the three PRRO countries, did not necessarily provide greater efficiencies than would be the case for country-based approaches with the bureau performing a normal role.

For instance, while there were advantages in providing consolidated documents, COs were still required to provide the country based inputs. In other words, the COs still had to maintain the inputs. Also, with more bureau management there were some negative consequences, especially when CO staff left responsibility for the document with the RB and responsibilities became blurred. Also, with RB staff drawn into operational CO management tasks this tended to deflect them from working on more regional support functions.

The provision of a Senior Programme Advisor as a bureau focal point to help coordinate the regional aspects of the PRRO was seen as a useful arrangement. This person was appointed to the bureau in August 2005. However, most COs saw this as a 'desk officer' role, one whereby they had a focal point in the bureau for follow up. Many indicated that they were fortunate that the particular individual had skills and experience that were proving useful. It was acknowledged,

however, that this was not a strong rationale for maintaining a regional approach as this was to some extent seen as a role that a regional programme advisor should be performing anyway.

Many were surprised, including CO and RB staff, when advised on the extent to which the PRRO funded the Bureau. In this regard, the accountability for 'outcome' for PRRO resources was raised as a concern. It was felt that CO staff were effectively responsible for project outcome but under such funding arrangements had no control over the bureau-funded resources. A similar concern was identified in the 2005 evaluation, which recommended that some outcome indicators be developed for measuring RB services. The point was also raised that the funds were provided centrally to 'enhance efficiency' in implementing activities in the field but that the operational staff were not in a position to determine this. In general, all felt that if the funds were provided to the COs they could be better managed.

In summary:

- The extra efficiency provided by regional approach is not apparent.
- The extra capacity that the funding brought to the bureau was a benefit shared across the ODK region as a whole. It did not match the far greater benefits that would have accrued by using these funds to boost in-country capacities.
- There is no evidence to show that centralising funds is more efficient.
- This funding approach is inconsistent with WFPs decentralisation approach and the concepts behind current direct costing theory.
- The regional approach led to extra 'layers' of management that proved problematic for the allocation of DSC. It blurred lines of direct control over outputs expected from these central funds.

5.8 Resource mobilization

The mission examined whether the regional project helped to attract resources by presenting a 'clustered package'.

The following were some of the issues related to this question:

- Most donors did not see the regional nature of the project as a motivating factor in directing resources. Some felt that the regional aspect may have been relevant in the beginning but was no longer the case. Others were worried that because the Great Lakes projects were presented as a package the less acceptable aspects of the project could tarnish the whole. Conversely, one donor indicated that they could donate to a regional package but were unlikely to provide directly to certain individual countries, in this case Rwanda, which was not a priority country for their aid programmes. They had no problem with the regional donation then being directed to Rwanda.

- Some donors may have been attracted to the 'regional' package simply because it was there, however, these resources would have been made available to the 'region' anyway even if directed to country operations.

- Overall, is seems that it was not necessary to have a regional project to attract resources. If faced with cross-border issues, the packaging of the regional approach can be presented in requests for donations without the necessity for a regional project.

- COs felt that that the country-based project aspects as well as in-country promotional efforts were factors that mobilised most donor resources. Some COs expressed concerns that

efforts made in this regard could work against them in a regional project when their in-country efforts and resulting benefits went elsewhere. Most did not see the RB as playing a significant role in advocacy and fundraising, other than what would normally be expected as part of the bureau role.

- Donors indicated that they tended to be guided more by what was happening in the respective countries than by a regional approach.

- Donors also foresaw some problems with providing even directed support to a regional project knowing that some of the funds would not be used in-country. Some were reluctant to provide 'flexible' support as they were not convinced by specific country programmes, i.e. some donors were not willing to support 'recovery' programmes but would support 'humanitarian' interventions.

In summary:

There may be good reasons to maintain a 'regional package' when attempting to seek support but the benefits of the strategy should be clear.

It was not evident that the regional project approach provided significant benefits in this regard nor that there would be less opportunity to obtain resources in separate country based approaches. Overall, most resources are directed. Donations that are not directed may still remain available for use in country-based approaches.

5.9 Transparency and ownership

During the management of the PRRO issues of transparency and ownership were observed.

5.9.1 Lack of transparency

At the CO level, staff were not clear on how the funds generated in the bureau were used. CO staff found the mechanism and arrangements in the project unclear, especially in relation to what was available for them to use and the roles and responsibilities of RB staff. This was especially the case for new CO and RB staff.

Donors were also concerned about transparency. A number of major donors questioned the RB role in terms of accountability and transparency and were not convinced that project funds used to support the RB were the most efficient or appropriate use of money. A number of donors also indicated that they had less problems funding in-country aspects as these were in evidence with clear activities, unlike the RB activities in this project, which were more obscure.

Transparency was an issue with Governments as well. This concern was highlighted for example by a senior Burundian Government official in charge of aid coordination when he requested to know exactly what amount of donor pledges were actually coming into the country. In a recent pledging conference donors had indicated to the Government the amounts they were providing to Burundi and advised that much of it was being channelled through WFP. The Government wanted more information on the process as well as how much money was actually being spent in Burundi. This was not clear to them in the current PRRO.

5.9.2 Lack of in-country ownership

Senior Managers in the COs expressed concern that they did not feel they had full management responsibility over the PRRO even though they were responsible for implementation. There was

a lack of clarity in terms of funding arrangements and authority/ responsibility levels both with the central (i.e. regionally managed) DSC and with even some aspects of LTSH. It was seen as a cumbersome arrangement. They felt that a country-based project would provide clearer management responsibilities.

Ownership of the process was also an issue. With regard to PRRO design, the COs tended to see this as a RB role with COs only providing inputs. This perception appears at odds with WFP's decentralisation policies whereby the COs are responsible for project design (with bureau support). The regional approach had the advantage that the RB was more heavily involved in the design and in the provision of support, but the potential disadvantage that the implementers (i.e. the CO) were not held fully responsible for the design of the approach in-country. There was therefore less of a sense of ownership within the COs. One senior CO staff member indicated that an advantage of the regional approach was that it involved only one document and saved them from having to prepare a separate one.

Of particular interest were the views of respective Governments with regard to project ownership. Each one was at a different point on a continuum of asserting its role in governance and in internal management of the country's development and humanitarian aid. All the officials met indicated a need to have a clearer country-specific project in which the support coming to their respective country could be better discerned. It was clear that the regional project did not do this adequately and they were not at all familiar with either the PRRO details or design. They all felt that at the geopolitical level there was still a role for regional problem solving but that a framework for intervention had to be a country-based approach. This was especially important now that they were attempting to coordinate aid within their own country-based priorities and strategies. It was therefore evident that the government officials did not especially like regionally managed projects.

In summary:

- The 2002 Evaluation warned that regional-level accountability was a problem. It reported concerns that the approach lacked transparency and that roles and responsibilities were not clear.
- The regional approach tended to reduce CO management ownership and continued to compound confusion over management authority and accountability despite efforts to address them over the past few years. The COs felt that separate country-based projects would address this problem and provide clearer lines of responsibility and management accountability.
- Many donors questioned the approach and also saw problems of accountability and a lack of transparency.
- Governments questioned the relevance of the approach to their own strategic approaches and their need to manage and coordinate aid.
- There is a strong need for WFP to address these concerns. This would be achieved by moving to country-based interventions, which would at least provide a more relevant focus and bring greater ownership and fuller accountability to the appropriate level.

5.10 Logistics issues

The RB logistics staff see their role as helping to strengthen the CO logistics capacities and coordinating their cargo movement through transit countries. In this role there is no distinction

between countries or projects and no special attention paid to regional PRRO requirement over other projects.

Most logistics arrangements that include the Great Lakes PRRO countries are managed within a recently established '*corridor co-coordination mechanism'* which covers Kenya, Somalia, Sudan (South), Uganda, DRC, Rwanda, Burundi and Tanzania. This appears to be an excellent system of coordination that operates very effectively. Every month '*cargo prioritisation'* tables are prepared by the ODK logistics and pipeline staff taking into account the CO needs in each of the two corridors fed respectively from Dar es Salaam and Mombasa. These tables are reviewed in a regular monthly conference call with all key staff at the ports, the transit points and the countries in the corridors in order to reach an agreement on deliveries and identify and solve any logistics problems. The CO staff in the Kenya and Tanzania offices then manage food deliveries as per agreed priorities. For this purpose the cost of running the logistics offices in the main transit points is shared amongst all the countries fed by the corridors on the basis of estimated tonnages expected over the year.

For example, Kenya, Southern Sudan, Uganda, DRC, Rwanda and Burundi share the cost of managing the Kenya logistics section (Mombasa Port and the Nairobi Logistics officer). Uganda, DRC, Rwanda and Burundi share the cost in Uganda for managing surface transport contracts and regionally purchased commodities. DRC, Rwanda, Tanzania and Burundi share the costs of the Dar es Salaam logistics officer.

The cost sharing for 2006 involves funding international posts: a D1 Port Captain in Mombasa and a P3 Logistics Officer in Nairobi; a P3 Logistics Officer in Uganda and a P3 Logistics Officer in Dar es Salaam. For the Mombasa Port office the total office budget of US $1,291,300 (for 2006) is shared with $302,300 (including the international post) coming from DSC and the remainder from LTSH.

In addition, a WFP trucking fleet is in operation in the region, which is managed by a Fleet Manager who is based in the Uganda CO. His costs are shared by Uganda, Burundi and Rwanda where the fleet is operated.

Overall, the three countries within the regional PRRO were pleased with these arrangements and felt that the system ran well. The role of the RB was clear and it was considered to be very supportive. All staff in the COs and at the RB level agreed that these arrangements applied for all projects and countries equally and there were no logistical advantages in having a regional PRRO to achieve this. It was also an arrangement that took place whether countries were in the regional project or not.

In summary:

- For logistics management the regional project approach did not provide any distinctive added benefits.
- Logistic needs were efficiently met within general regional wide collaborative arrangements, independent of project modes.

5.11 In-country coherence

In reviewing whether to maintain the regional approach it became apparent that the regional model appeared inappropriate for the new conditions in each country. All COs presented their respective operations in the PRRO as country-specific and each country case was distinctively different. The regional situation has changed considerably since 1995.

In each country, there was a strong drive for greater governance, greater coherence between activities and a more strategic approach towards aid coordination.

In Tanzania, there is strong Government direction, good donor support mechanisms, and aid coordination is considered to be at quite an advanced level. The PRSP process has moved into a mature stage and a number of bilateral donors now offer budgetary support. In addition, though the PRRO is essentially a refugee operation, there is strong Government and aid community attention on minimising negative impacts. Strategies and donor funds were devised within the PRSP framework to address this issue.

Rwanda is in a post-recovery phase with an assertive Government. The Government has stabilised the economy, successfully initiated a range of reforms and is into its second PRSP. Aid mechanisms have evolved and a number of major donors are looking at direct budgetary support. In this context the regional approach was seen as inappropriate as '*a remnant of the past*' as one donor described it. A number of donors indicated that too many institutions and NGOs work in the old mode with minimal Government involvement and where the main focus is on emergency assistance.

In Burundi the situation is less stable but similar issues arose. A newly elected Government is in early stages of development. The key focus for WFP has been to ensure basic conditions of household food security to ensure a conducive development environment. The first PRSP aimed at reducing poverty, stabilizing the economy and promoting recovery is to commence in 2007.

In summary:

- The regional approach is not an appropriate mechanism for integration into Government strategies as it was devised for a different operating environment;
- Each country presents distinctive situations requiring separate project intervention approaches with Governments that have development strategies calling for specifically tailored intervention support.

5.12 Recommendations

1. It is recommended that separate country-specific PRROs replace the Great Lakes Regional PRRO.

2. The respective country PRROs should be designed to commence at the end of the 12-month period of the current Regional PRRO. The timeframe for each new PRRO should be specifically tailored to meet individual country strategic requirements.

   For Tanzania, the approach will be determined by refugee caseload estimates for which two years appears to be a reasonable estimation horizon according to UNHCR.

   For Rwanda the PRRO should be a transitional bridge to incorporate longer-term activities into a new country programme, which is planned to harmonize with the UNDAF/ PRSP framework commencing in 2008.

   For Burundi the PRRO would focus on providing a vital stabilizing role required for at least a two-year period.

These separate PRROs should be presented to the Executive Board for approval and information.

3. Regional issues should be accommodated through inter-country office communication and contact and facilitated by the RB as part of their normal role. Regional advocacy for CO resources can be continued if appropriate.

4. The dismantling of the Regional PRRO will have serious implications for the RB. Many of the current capacities that provide support benefits for the region as a whole are boosted by the PRRO funds. The proposed changes will entail moving these capacities to the COs. The loss of significant funding support to the RB will reduce current capacities, which will have implications for its ability to provide current levels of support to the ODK region as a whole. RB capacities should be reviewed and possible additional PSA budgetary support may be needed, especially as PRRO budget support was a factor when determining the 2006/07 biennium PSA budget allocations.

5. In the preparation of country-based project budgets, the COs should consider sharing costs if necessary. As discussed above, this approach has been successfully adopted for regional logistics. Examples include sharing VAM and Procurement Officers. This would allow cross-country coordination and be guided by CO Senior Managers. As with logistics, the Officers do not need to be located in the RB but can be posted in a specific CO.

6. COs should work more directly with each other, with RB facilitation if needed, to communicate on cross-border issues.

7. Budget Revisions should be used more efficiently as the primary tool for any changes in project conditions. They need to reflect true conditions and COs should be held responsible for their justification.

8. The RB should continue to consider provision of a focal point officer for Great Lakes issues, to include DRC and other countries with refugee movements.

ANNEXES

Annex 1: Terms of reference of the Joint Needs Assessment

WFP/FAO/UNHCR Joint Needs Assessment Mission – Great Lakes: Burundi, Rwanda & Tanzania - March/April 2006
(Version of 13 March 2006)

The Great Lakes Regional PRRO 10062.2. was submitted to the Board in November 2005 for its approval. This operation, comprising Burundi, Rwanda and Tanzania, aims at supporting food insecure and vulnerable populations, including refugees, returnees, IDPs and undernourished women and children. Although the political situation in the region has evolved and is relatively more stable, these countries are still experiencing the consequences of large-scale movements of populations. People are fleeing from political violence and unrest in the region, including DRC, and or are facing poor food production conditions. Overall, these factors deepened poverty. Many households and individuals are therefore exposed to severe food insecurity or have become vulnerable. The current transition period, which involves on-going peace processes calls for relief as well as recovery activities and longer-term investments, based on the assessment of needs.

The Board approved the operation for a one-year duration and requested WFP to undertake a joint needs assessment with UNHCR and other interested UN agencies and donors as the basis for planning assistance beyond the initial period covering 2006. The overall objective of this exercise would be to assess the need for, and scope of future programming in the Great Lakes region.

Based on the findings and conclusions of the assessment, a revised Great Lakes PRRO will be presented to the Executive Board at the Second Regular Session in November 2006.

The specific objectives of this joint needs assessment are to review, verify and synthesize the available information on:

- The current food security and nutrition situation in Tanzania, Burundi and Rwanda from a regional and country-level perspective;
- The estimation of the number of food insecure people requiring food and non-food assistance;
- Where food aid is an appropriate response, the most appropriate interventions and their timing, and how these complement related non-food programmes; and
- Opportunities for recovery and longer-term food and nutrition security.

This assessment will therefore address the main issues identified by the Board members, which are:

- the implementation strategy including transitional activities;
- a clear understanding of the condition of the affected populations, including numbers of food insecure people and resources implications;
- drawing from lessons learned;
- the planned exit strategies and
- recommendations on local and regional procurement.

The role of the WFP Regional Bureau in coordinating the operation will be handled by a separate, parallel management review. This exercise will be lead by Malcolm Duthie.

Methodology – The assessment will be carried out in 3 phases and will apply a specific approach to each of them:

- Secondary data analysis: analysis of available secondary information on food security and nutrition and identification of data gaps through a desk review. Baseline and assessment information is already available or is currently being collected in the 3 respective countries and shall be completed prior to the beginning of this exercise. The desk review will allow determining further information requirements that will be collected and analysed by the assessment team. Simultaneously to the field visit, a market analysis will be done in the 3 countries that will address the regional and local procurement capacities and possible cash interventions;

- Joint assessment mission: regional and in-country field visits with all relevant stakeholders including beneficiaries, local and national authorities, major donors, collaborating partners and other UN agencies based on additional information needs. The data collection will be done through key informant interviews and possibly focus group discussions. The results will be triangulated with the secondary information;

- Synthesis assessment report: the report writing will be undertaken after a thorough de-briefing done to the stakeholders on the basis of an aide-memoire, and will include their feedback.

Assessment team composition – The assessment team managed by ODAN will be composed of:

- A team leader with a strong conceptual background on food security and leadership skills (ODAN)
- A regional assessment officer (ODK)
- A nutritionist (PDPN)
- A UNHCR representative
- An agro-economist from FAO (GIEWS)

Observers: Some of the major donors who have expressed interest in this assessment such as Japan, the Netherlands, the United Kingdom, Scandinavian countries, the USA and the EC could participate in the exercise as observers. However, if they are not available, they will in any case be closely consulted during the assessments at regional and country level.

Timeline - The Joint Needs Assessment is scheduled to start beginning of March with the desk review for two weeks. The field visits will be undertaken from 18 March to 7 April for three weeks, according to the additional information requirements. The assessment team will present preliminary findings prior to departing from each country, and provide a general debriefing in Kampala to colleagues of the Regional Bureau and interested donors. The assessment report should be completed by end of April 2006.

The assessment will be preceded by advance preparation exercises from January until early March, particularly in Burundi and Rwanda to complement secondary data on food security baseline and monitoring. Below is a detailed timeline:

Activity	Lead	Timeframe
Finalize TORs for joint assessment (including consultation with partners)	ODAN in consultation with ODK	By 14 March 2006
Finalize TOR for market assessment	ODK in consultation with ODAN	By 14 March
Finalize TORs for management review	OD in consultation with ODK/ODAN	By 14 March
Analysis of secondary data analysis for 3 countries	ODK with support of ODAN/PDPN	9 March – 17 March
Draft synthesis report of secondary data analysis	ODK with support of ODAN/PDPN	By 17 March
Market Assessment Mission	ODK	22 March – 5 April
Joint Assessment Mission	ODAN in collaboration with ODK/PDPN	18 March – 7 April
Debrief by Assessment team (inc. market) in Kampala	ODAN in collaboration with ODK/PDPN	6 and 7 April
Deadline for final draft Market Assessment Report (to be annexed to final assessment report)	ODK with support of ODAN	By 12 April
Management Review Mission	OD	18 March to 7 April
Deadline for final draft Joint Assessment Report	ODAN with support of PDPN	1 May
Deadline for final Joint Assessment Report	ODAN with support of PDPN	19 May

Tasks – In close collaboration with all stakeholders, the assessment mission should:

1. Undertake a thorough review of available secondary data in all three countries and identify remaining information needs and gaps;

2. Verify secondary data by means of short field visits in all three countries; time spent in each country will differ, reflecting the size and complexity of programme as well as the availability of secondary data (Burundi: 8 days; Rwanda: 5 days; Tanzania: 4 days);

3. Assess the extent and possible impact of worsening climatic conditions, particularly the threat of widespread drought in the southern, east, and Great Lakes region, on local markets, prices, and people's access to food and their nutritional status;

4. Determine to what extend structural changes such as access to land and other livelihoods, higher dependency on markets and labour, and agriculture diseases contribute to chronic food insecurity;

5. Address security concerns (i.e. elections, civil conflict and related political uncertainties) and their potential effects on the food security and nutrition situation in the region, including a gender analysis; review the recovery potentials within a transition context; provide recommendations regarding necessary actions to be taken in order to address people's severe food insecurity and vulnerability;

6. Assess the number and categories of people (IDPs, refugees, host communities and resident population) that are in need of food aid, determine where they are located, and estimate their food requirements providing clear justifications;

7. Analyse the comparative advantage of food and non-food response options to alleviate food insecurity in the region and establish agreement on whether current programming channels, i.e. relief and recovery are being utilized in line with evolving circumstances, absorption capacity and institutional constraints in all three countries;

8. Identify opportunities for self-reliance and durable solutions for refugees; assess non-food requirements for effective nutrition interventions; review the feasibility of cash interventions;

9. Identify clear linkages of food insecurity and nutritional issues with targeting and programme approaches and ensure to reach consensus in the approach with the major stakeholders on board;

10. Provide detail on possible local/regional procurement of food and indicate their feasibility and practicality;

11. Recommend exit strategies in view of the identified needs and perspectives on populations recovery and food security in each country;

12. Brief/debrief donor representatives and international agencies who did not directly participate in the assessment mission on the findings and recommendations of the Mission;

13. Prepare a joint technical report on findings and recommendations to be issued to the international community and used for the revision of the Great Lakes PRRO.

Annex 2: Terms of reference of Regional and Local Procurement Review

A Review of Food Production and Food Markets in Tanzania, Burundi and Rwanda

Introduction and Background

The GLR of Tanzania, Burundi and Rwanda are conducting a Joint Needs Assessment (JNA) for PRRO 10062.2 that runs through November 2006. The PRRO is for support to Refugees, IDPs and returnees. The JNA will be used as a basis for the revision of the PRRO.

A food markets assessment that would identify potential food procurement options for WFP was requested to form part of the JNA.

Objectives of Review

The objectives of the markets review are:

- To provide a review of agricultural production, consumption, and trade patterns of major food crops in the three countries that would provide useful data and information for formulating strategies for WFP's programs
- To provide a useful background on food markets that would be a basis for formulation of policy on food purchases and procurement

Key Assumptions

- Recognizing that the scope of the study is large, the basis is that all or most of the data required for the market assessment is available within countries with minimal gaps to be filled and verifications done during mission visits
- Local resource persons will be identified who will contribute to the markets assessment. Use of local resource persons is crucial as they have the local expertise and builds on capacity within the countries and region

Methodology

Both secondary and primary data collection techniques and analyses will be used for this review. Specifically the review will consist of the following:

- There will be desk reviews of available data and literature on each country's agricultural production, consumption, trade, prices and marketing patterns of the major food crops. Relevant marketing policies, inflation and exchange rates will also be reviewed as they relate to the macro economy.
- There will be semi-structured interviews with key informants including agricultural officials, traders and processors of major food commodities on food market systems, markets structure, seasonal marketing and quality & standards.
- Interviews will also be conducted with stakeholders interested in food procurement (WFP, NGOs, Government Authorities, Traders, Farmers) on the different programs, magnitude and food procurement patterns.
- There will be the analyses of available secondary data and interviews for reporting

Expected Outputs

The review on food production and food markets is to lead to the following expected outputs:

- Findings on key production, consumption, trade and marketing patterns for Tanzania, Burundi and Rwanda

- Recommendations on local and regional food procurement options
- Recommendations on potential implications for cash interventions

Team Composition for Food Markets Review

- Regional Assessment Officer (Markets)
- Regional Procurement Officer
- Economist, FAO, Rome
- Identified Resources Person(s) in the Countries
- Country Office VAM Officers

Annex 3: Terms of reference of the Management and Coordination Review

REVIEW OF COORDINATION AND MANAGEMENT MECHANISMS FOR GREAT LAKES PRRO

Problem Analysis

- November 2005, EB raised concerns regarding the role of WFP Regional Office "With overall coordination resting with WFP's regional bureau in Kampala the role of this office in managing the PRRO and providing support to respective country offices needs to be more thoroughly discussed in the document".
- PRRO document is not clear on how it is managed at the regional level and on the advantages of maintaining a regional approach.
- Recommendation of March 2005 Evaluation of PRRO that there needs to be a: "comprehensive review of its coordination and management mechanism for an effective future regional programme".
- In the Operations Review concerns were raised regarding regional operations.
- Growing awareness that Regional Operations – especially ones that are maintained over time – raise concerns regarding accountability.

Issues for Follow Up

- EB (major donors) will want strong substantiation to support the management approach/structure proposed in the revised document. OD will have to present the case well for the revised approach.
- Need to ensure that the process of assessment as well as the final arrangements proposed are understood and accepted by all (last time two out of the three countries preferred to move to national operations and not maintain current strategy – see Evaluation of PRRO 10062.1, March 2005, p. 14).
- Review has to be more than just a standard Joint Needs Assessment – management approach for the PRRO will have to be reviewed. Look at what the options are for decentralising the approach.
- Review approach will need to look at what works well and how to optimise this. Also how to improve on the problems identified in the 2005 and 2003 evaluations. And what will the longer term approach be.

Methodology

The Management Review will be part of a Joint Assessment as a parallel process to the EFSA.

Specific Approach: Review the basis for either maintaining a Regional PRRO or for proposing separate country based PRROs. Help to provide substantiation for the management and coordination mechanisms to be proposed to the board.

In the context above, address the following issues:

- **Flexibility.** Does a regionally managed PRRO provide greater flexibility than a country based approach? The two most recent evaluations point out that this objective has not been realised – donor earmarking for particular countries was one of the reasons cited.
- **Optimisation of support**. To what extent has a Regional PRRO provided benefits that may not be available with country based projects. How is this consistent with WFP's

decentralisation approach and the maintaining of normal roles of the Bureaux in provision of support?

- **Allocation of Resources**. What are the advantages in maintaining a regionally managed PRRO in the allocation of resources? Clarify the advantages compared to a country level approach and show what a country based approach would loose?
- **Advocacy**. Clarify whether a 'regionally managed' PRRO has clear advantages in improving advocacy or whether the same result would still be achievable with country based approaches and the RB resuming its normal role. It would be useful to outline approaches, issues and benefits – and consistency in relation to WFP's normal approach/role with Country Offices, Regional Bureau and Headquarters in this regard.
- **Funding**. Regional management of central fund and allocation. Determine how this has functioned, its efficiency, effectiveness and what have been the issues of having a central fund versus a country based one. What would be the advantages of either approach? Look at issues related to accountability of funds
- **Logistics**. Review benefits of regional versus country management in ensuring effective logistics support to the country operations.
- **Consistency of Model**. Clarify the basis for having and maintaining a continuous regionally managed PRRO rather than moving to Country based projects. Review the rationale for determining when to decentralise such an approach – especially when the situation becomes longer term.
- **Coherence with in-county strategies.** Determine the appropriateness of the management approach to promote effective partnership support and backing in-country.

Review will involve assessment of all appraisals and evaluations and include visits to the Bureau and respective Country Offices to consult staff and relevant collaborating partners, government agencies and donors. This would be done to the extent possible with the Needs assessment mission and would ideally involve attending the appropriate de-briefing exercises.

Outcome would be to provide options for the management approach for the PRRO in the future. It would be used to provide the basis for a project/strategy to be presented to the November 2006 EB.

Annex 4: Documents consulted for the desk review

Tanzania

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- World Bank, 2006 www.worldbank.org
- Ministry of Agriculture Food Security and Cooperatives, February 2006. The Rapid Vulnerability Assessment (RVA) of Food Insecure Districts in Tanzania Mainland for the 2005-06 Market Year
- UNDP, 2005. Human Development Report
- Tanzania Government, (2005), http://www.tanzania.go.tz/
- Household Budget Survey; 2000/01
- WFP/UNHCR Joint Assessment Mission, Great Lakes – Tanzania, 8-14 November 2005
- The Nutritional Status of Under-five and Schoolchildren, Lactating and Pregnant Women: Nutrition Survey Results in Refugee Camps in Western Tanzania, UNHCR, UNICEF and WFP, September 2005
- The Coping Strategy Index Follow-up Survey, Assisted Refugees in Western Tanzania, WFP 2005
- Rapid Vulnerability Assessment of Food Insecure Districts in Tanzania Mainland for the 2005-2006 Market Year, Food Security Information Team, Prime Minister's Office and Ministry of Agriculture, February 2006

Rwanda

- Economic Intelligence Unit, 2005, Rwanda Country Report
- Economic Intelligence Unit, 2005, Rwanda Country Profile
- Ministry of Agriculture, Agricultural Policy
- Synthesis, Rwanda Food Security Research Project, 2003
- MINECOFIN Annual Economic Report, 2004, 2005
- Rwanda Demographic and Health Survey, 2005
- Victoria Wise, 2004, Nutritional Situation of Young Children in Rwanda: An Analysis of Anthropometric data collected by the Household Living Conditions Survey 1999 – 2001,
- FEWSNET, February 2006 Rwanda Food Security Update
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- Crop And Food Assessment (CFAM) 2005 B, Ministry of Agriculture
- International Monetary Fund Washington, D.C, MINECOFIN, 2005
- Rwanda: Poverty Reduction Strategy Paper—Annual Progress Report
- 2003, Rwanda Vulnerability Baseline Report, WFP, Government of Rwanda and Fewsnet
- MINECOFIN, 2002, A Profile of Poverty in Rwanda: An Analysis Based on the Results of the Household Living Condition Survey, Ministry of Finance and Economic Planning, National Poverty Reduction Programme and Statistics Department, February 2006, Kigali, Rwanda.
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Burundi

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- WFP, Burundi: Strategic Review of PRRO, March 2006
- WFP, Burundi: A Strategic Review of the Nutrition Portfolio of activities, March 2006
- WFP/UNHCR Report on Joint Assessment Mission, 27-30 June 2005

- Burundi: Rapport de l'enquête nationale de nutrition de la population, Ministère de la Santé Publique, PAM, UNICEF 2005
- Enquête sur les populations déplacées au Burundi, 2004 and 2005, OCHA
- Economic Intelligence Unit, 2006, Burundi Country Report
- Economic Intelligence Unit, 2006, Burundi Country Profile
- Cabinet du Président, Programme du Gouvernement du Burundi 2005-2010
- Evaluation des récoltes, des approvisionnements alimentaires et de la situation nutritionnelle, Saison 2005A, 2005B and 2006A, Ministère de l'agriculture et de l'élevage, FAO, WFP, UNICEF and OCHA
- Joint WFP/UNHCR mission report, June 2006
- Burundi UNDAF 2005-2007
- Burundi Interagency Health and Nutrition Needs Assessment, May 2004

Annex 5: Key Informant Interviews

Burundi, 29 March to 5 April 2006

Thacien Nzeyimana	National Director, Ministry of Solidarity
Pierre Clavier Rurakamvye	Permanent Secretary, CNCA (Conseil National de la Coordination des Aides)
Moise Bucumu	Governor, Province of Ruyigi
Selemani Mossi	Governor, Provicne of Gitega
François Sungayimiheto	Governor of kirundo
Mohamed Feruzi	Governor of Muyinga
Alassane Sow	World Bank Resident Representative
Mustafa Cassama	FAO Representative
Jean-Pierre Renson	FAO, in-charge of emergency programme
Kaba-Guichard Nayaga	UNHCR Representative
Valentin Tapsoba	UNHCR Deputy Representative
Adama Basse	UNHCR Head of Office, Muyinga
Basile Koukoui	UNICEF
Laurent Dufour	Officer for Humanitarian Affairs, UNOCHA
Jean-Sébastien Munié	Programme Coordinator, UNOCHA
Nora Zicherman	CARE
Duncan Barker	World Vision
Isabelle Roubeix	ACF
Diane Holland	Concern
Sonya van Osch	IMC
Bernd Schwenk	AAA (Agro-action allemande - German Agro-Action)
Rebecca Blackledge	CRS
Patrick Bukasa	GVC
Balise Nzeyimana	CARITAS
Sylvain Duhau	Solidarités
Gilbert Ndayiragije	COPED
David Kigozi	Tearfund

Rwanda, 23 - 28 March 2006

Jean Damascene Ntawukuriryayo	Minister of Health
Panos Moumtzis	UNHCR Country Representative
Kevin Mullally	USAID, Director
Ryan Washburn	Team Leader, USAID
Ernest Rwamuco	Ministry of Economic Planning and Finance
Elisabeth Balep	FAO Representative
Augustin Kampayana	Ministry of Agriculture, Director of Planning and Social Protection
Laurent Kayitare	Fewsnet Country Representative
Bintou Keita	UNICEF Representative
Gertjan Tempelman	Embassy of the Netherlands, Deputy Head of Mission,
Gianluca Rampola	Head of Unit, UNDP/Aid Coordination Team,
Hubert Ziegler	Ambassador, Embassy of Germany
Marc Gedopt	Ambassador, Embassy of Belgium,

Atanase Murekzi	Minister of Agriculture
Ahmed Toure	World Bank Country manager
Julie Fournier	Second Secretary, Embassy of Canada
Colin Kirk	Director, UK/DFID Mission
Protais Rukeramihigo	German Agro-action

Tanzania, 19 – 22 March 2006

Dar Es Salaam

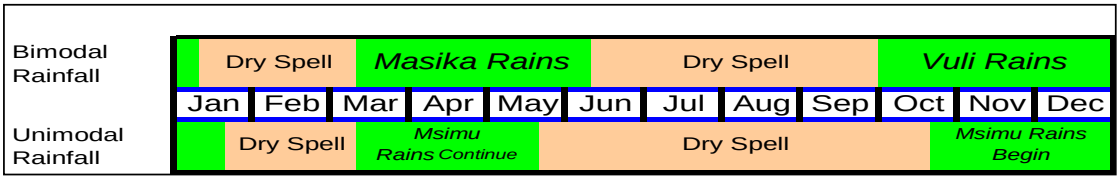
John Brahim	Assistant Director of MHA Refugee Services
Naoko Akiyama	Emergency Coordinator UNICEF
Roy Trivety	Deputy Director DFID
Tony Brennan	High Commissioner DFID
Mr. Peter Maddens	Ambassador Belgium Embassy
Mary Jane Meierdiercks-Popovic	Senior Progr.Officer UNHCR

Kigoma/Lugufu

Godfrey Mbaruku	Regional Medical Officer, RC's Office.
Ephacian Chokola	Assistant Zonal Coordinator, MHA, Zonal Office.
Penina Munoru	Head of Sub-office, UNHCR Kigoma.
Charles Karokola	Camp commandant, MHA Lugufu
Diana Lorenzana	Field Officer, UNHCR Lugufu
Felician Majuva	Team Leader, Tanzania Red Cross Society, Lugufu
Sarah Masoy	Team Leader, World Vision Tanzania
Rhoda Nganda	Health Coordinator, Tanzania Red Cross Society, Lugufu
Deusdedit Kiiza	Team Leader, Relief to Development society
Gervas Chiza	Field Officer, CARE International.

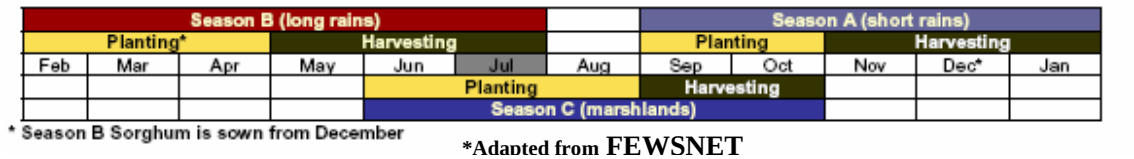
Annex 6: Agriculture season calendars for Tanzania, Rwanda and Burundi

Tanzania



	Vuli/Short rains	Masika/Long rains	Unimodal
Rainy Season	October - November	February/March	November
Harvest	late January/February	July/August	May - July

Rwanda



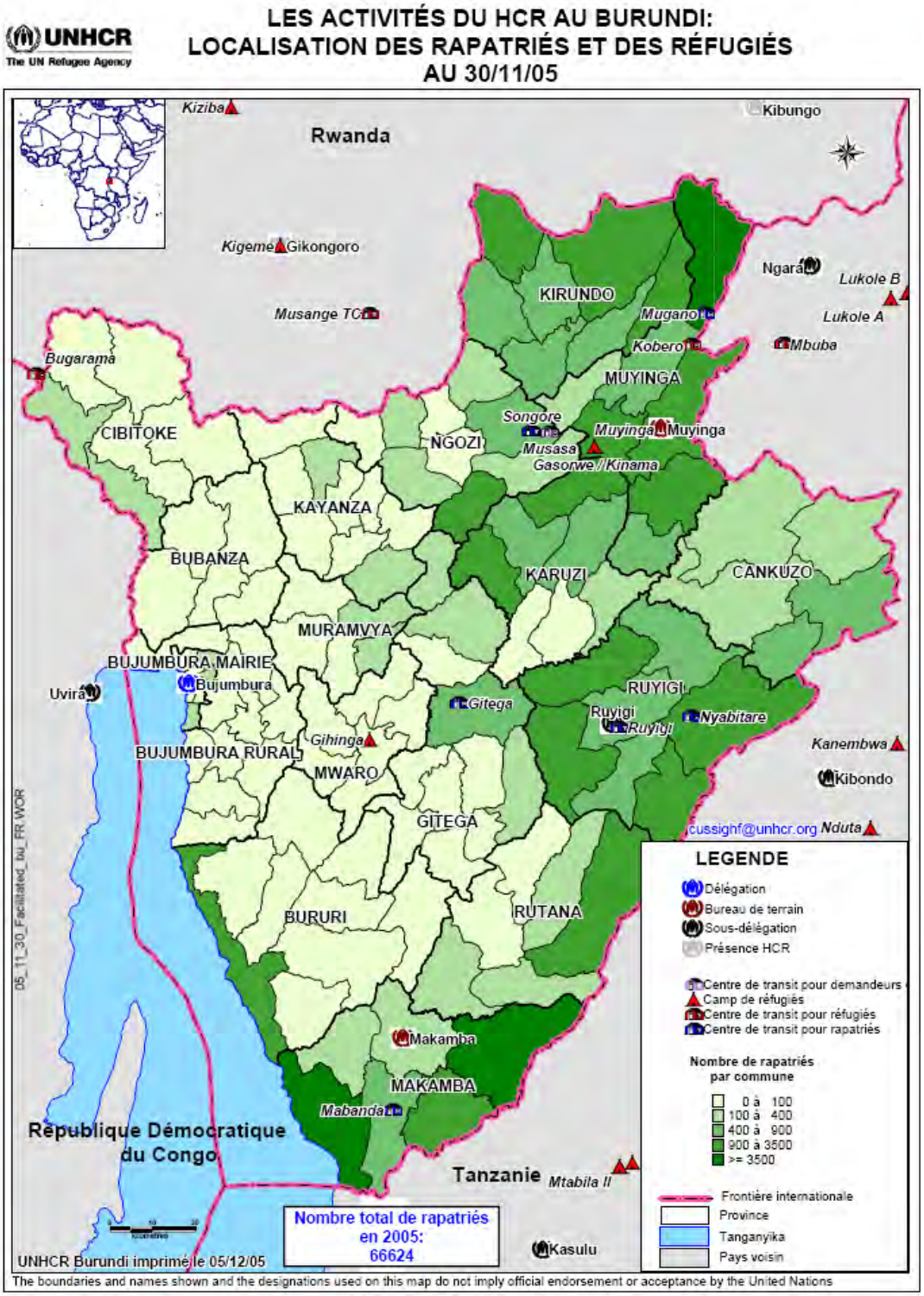
*Adapted from FEWSNET

	Season A	Season B	Season C (swamps)
Rainy season	September-January	February-July	
Harvest	December	June	October

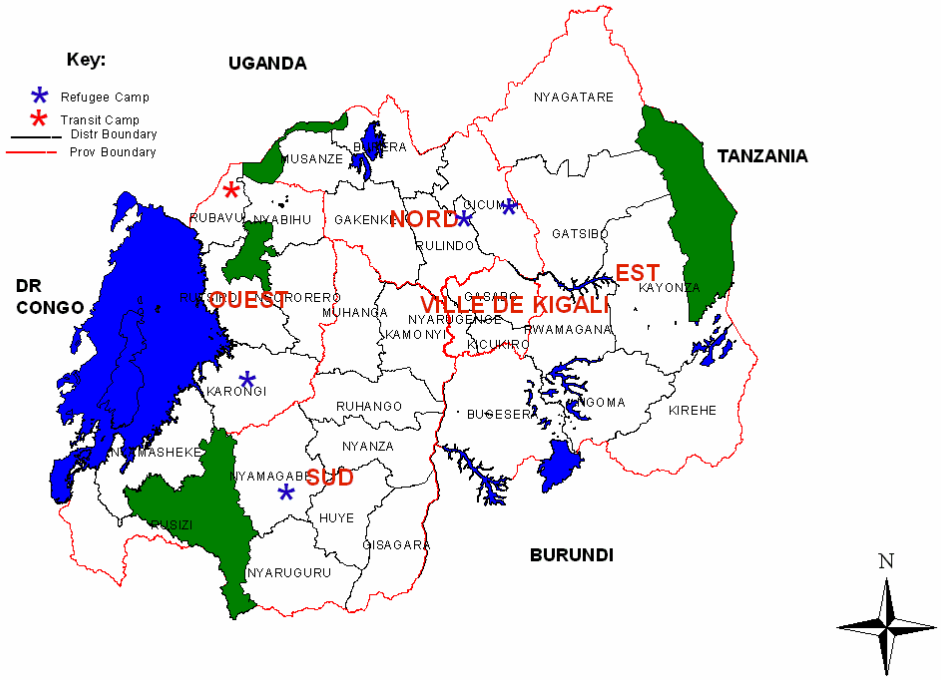
Burundi

	Season A	Season B	Season C (swamps)
Rainy season	September –November	February-May	June-November
Harvest	February	June	October

Annex 7: Maps of Refugee Sites

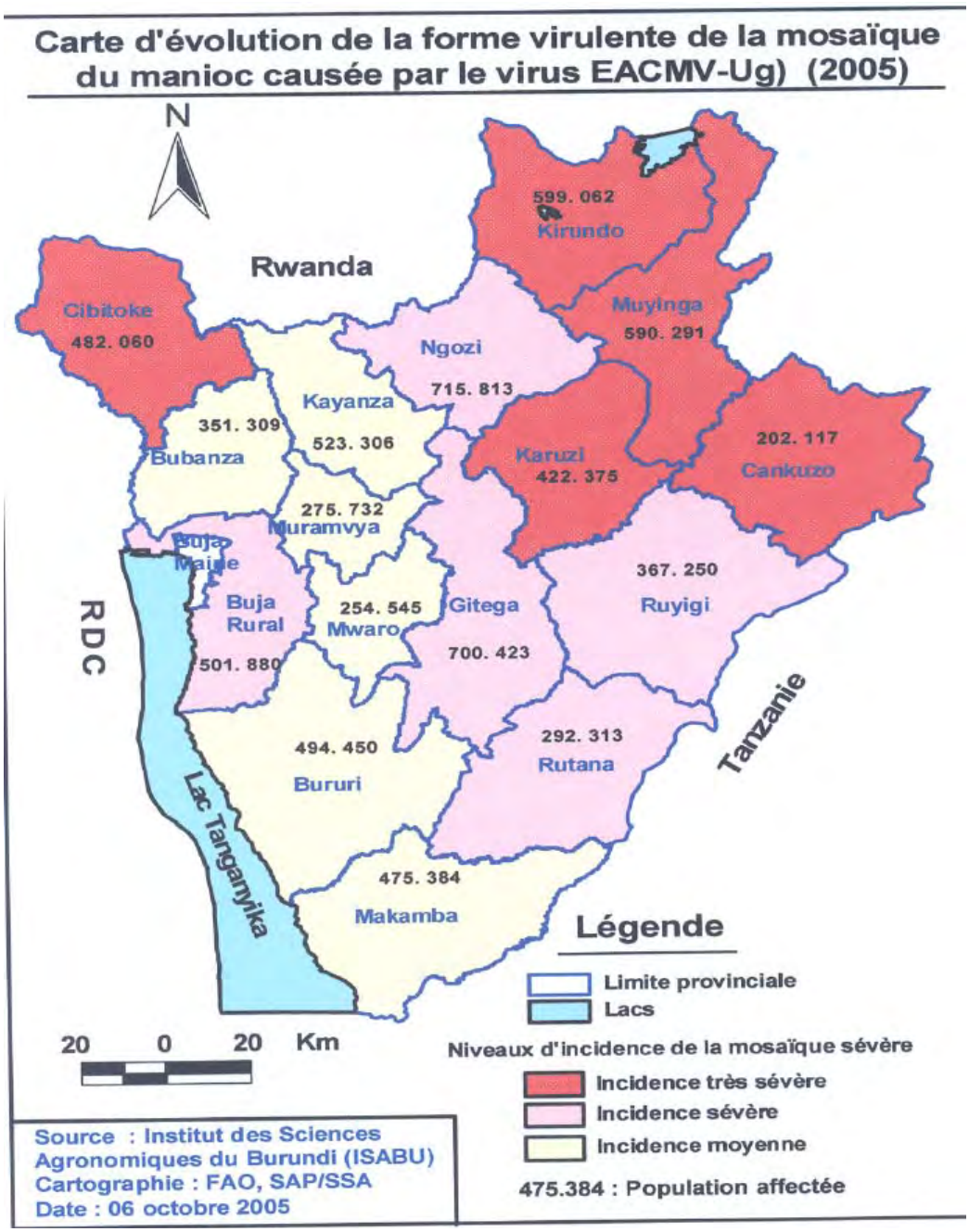


LOCATION OF REFUGEE CAMPS IN RWANDA _MAY 2006

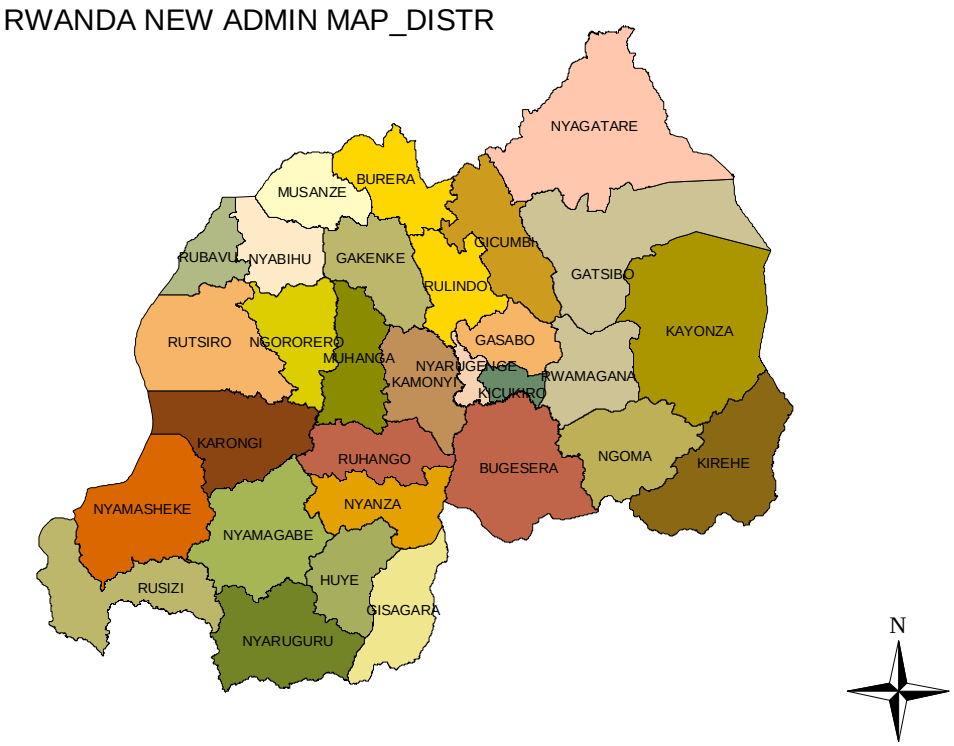



Kifunzo
Kazinga
Mwisa
Bukoba
Goma
Byumba
RWANDA
Gisenyi
KIGALI
Kibuye
Mulelba
Nyamahale
Ngara
Mwanza
Sengerema
Keza
Muyinga
Geita
BURUNDI
Nyaruonga
BUJUMBURA
Kakonko
Uvira
Kasana
Kibondo
Katura
Kahama
Makamba
Baraka
Kasulu
Kigoma
Matagarasi
Lugufu I & II

Annex 8: Map on CMD in Burundi



Annex 9: Map of new administrative boundaries in Rwanda



ACCESS TO FLOOD-AFFECTED POPULATION IN THE HORN OF AFRICA REMAINS DIFFICULT

Excessive rains in October and November in the Horn of Africa have resulted in the worst flooding in many years in parts of Somalia, Kenya and Ethiopia. The floods have severely damaged infrastructure and housing and caused crop, livestock and asset losses. By early December, heavy rains persisted in several areas, particularly in Kenya, and weather forecasts predict continued precipitation until the end of the year. Overall, preliminary estimates indicate that 150 people have died, 350 000 have been displaced and up to 1.8 million have been adversely affected in the region. In the affected pastoral areas of Somalia, Ethiopia and Kenya, the floods followed severe drought conditions early in the year that resulted in acute food shortages and serious livestock losses. The United Nations and international NGO's, in collaboration with national governments, are responding to the emergency and food and non-food assistance is being provided to the affected population. Water and sanitation interventions including the rehabilitation of damaged water infrastructure is essential to combat spread of flood-related diseases such as malaria, polio and acute watery diarrhoea. Agricultural inputs, mainly seeds, are needed to allow farmers to replant lost crops. As the flooding has also gravely affected the livestock population, which constitutes a vital source of livelihood in the region, veterinarian products to prevent imminent livestock disease are also required. However, impassable roads and bridges are seriously hampering access to the affected population. WFP has launched a US $ 11.4 million three-month emergency airlift of food for flood victims cut off by the surging waters.

In **Somalia**, the worst affected country, rains since October have been more than 300 percent above their normal levels in most areas, with some stations recording precipitation 400-600 percent higher than average. The Shabelle and Juba Rivers on the Somali border to Ethiopia burst their banks and flooded an area of 15 kilometres on either side. The floods have submerged entire villages along the the rivers, resulted in loss of life and displaced 50 000 in the Hiran region. In addition, about 20 people are reported to have died from diarrhoea in semi-autonomous Puntland province. According to flood modelling projections, up to 902 000 people are likely to be directly affected by the floods. The excessive rains coincided with the start of the secondary dyer crop season, which accounts for some 20 to 30 percent of the annual cereal production. Floods washed away recently planted crops and seed distributions will be necessary for replanting once the waters recede. In pastoral areas, dyer rains constitute the main rainy season and, despite the severe damage to infrastructure and livestock losses, the heavy rains will replenish water resources and regenerate pastures after last year's severe drought. By early December, many communities, especially in the Juba region, remained totally isolated by the level of the waters. Access to the affected population is further hampered by very poor transport infrastructure following many years of civil conflict and lack of central government.

In **Kenya,** the exceptional heavy rains and floods have devastated north-eastern and coastal parts of the country but are also affecting western areas. Worst affected are pastoral areas in the Somalia and Ethiopia borders including the districts of Mandera, Marsabit, Moyale, Garissa and the three refugee camps at Dadaab, which host 160 000 Somali refugees. It is estimated that 100 000 of this population have been displaced because of the floods. At the worst flooded camp of Ifo, refugees have moved 20 kilometres seeking for temporary shelters. In Garissa, livestock have been swept away and people are living in the open. In Ijara acute food shortages are reported, roads have been cut off and there has been no emergency aid until early December. Overall, 41 people have died and 300 000 have being affected by the floods according to the Red Cross. In spite of this, the exceptional heavy rains have helped to replenish water supplies and rejuvenate pastures after prolonged drought conditions.

In **Ethiopia**, the floods affected the Gode, Afder, Liben and Korahe zones of the mainly pastoral Somali region, where official estimates indicate that 360 000 have been affected. On 23 November, the Government has launched an Emergency Appeal asking for approximately US$7 million for critical lifesaving interventions, including helicopter transport of relief distributions, but also for medium term rehabilitation activities such as the restoration of damaged rural and urban water infrastructure. Despite improvements in accessing the affected population, several areas are still cut off by the surging waters and the humanitarian situation remains critical. WFP has just extended its emergency food airlift to flood victims in the Horn of Africa to Ethiopia. While the deyr rains are secondary for the whole country, they are the main season in pastoral areas and, therefore, pasture conditions are

anticipated to have improved after two consecutive drought-affected seasons. Elsewhere in the country, a good cereal harvest is in progress following abundant rains during the main “meher” season.

Localized crop losses following Typhoon Durian in Philippines and Vietnam

Philippines

Typhoon Durian hit Philippines on December 1-2, with high winds and heavy rains that caused massive flooding and landslides in the central Bicol Region. Whole villages were reportedly buried and preliminary estimates indicate at least 500 casualties, thousand of people injured, hundreds missing and some 83 000 persons displaced in designated evacuation centers. Over 76 000 houses were totally destroyed and some 154 000 partially damaged. Official preliminary estimates indicate damage to infrastructure amounting to Philippine Peso (PhP) 357 million (US $7.2 Millions). Overall, more than 1.5 million people in 13 provinces have been directly affected by the typhoon. The Government of Philippines has declared the "State of National Calamity" and asked for international emergency assistance.

Agriculture is one of the major economic activities in Bicol Region, with rice the main cereal crop and maize the secondary one. In 2005 the annual production of the region (main and second cropping seasons) was about 1 million tonnes of paddy and 100 000 tonnes of maize, representing some 7 percent and 2 percent of the national outputs respectively. Other major food crops cultivated in the region are roots and tubers, sugarcane and vegetables. At the passage of the typhoon, harvesting of the 2006 main season rice and maize crops was almost complete and planting of the second season, for harvesting in 2007, was well advanced. Severe damage to the recently planted rice and maize crops has been reported, with higher losses of maize since this crop is more susceptible to water damage than rice. Preliminary Government estimates indicate that losses of maize amount to PhP317 million (US $6.4 millions) and those of rice to PhP250 million (US $5 millions). The worst hit provinces are Albay, Camarines Sur, and Camarines Norte.
At national level, the 2006 aggregate paddy production is officially forecast at a record 15.3 million tonnes, some 10 percent above five-year average reflecting generally favourable weather during the cropping seasons, the distribution of higher yielding seeds and expanded (irrigated) areas planted. Similarly, the maize harvest is expected to reach a record level of 6 million tonnes, compared to 5.3 million tonnes last year and the five-year average of 4.8 million tonnes.

Vietnam

Typhoon Durian arrived in Vietnam Central Region on December 4. It is reported that at least 48 people have died, tens of thousands have been evacuated and thousands of homes have been severely damaged as a result of heavy rains and floods.

Food and non-food emergency assistance is needed for the victims of Typhoon Durian in Philippines and Vietnam.

This report is prepared by the **Global Information and Early Warning System (GIEWS)** of the Trade and Markets Division of FAO. The updates focus on developing anomalous conditions aimed at providing early warnings, as well as latest and more elaborate information than other GIEWS regular reports on the food security situation of countries, at both national and sub-national levels. None of the information in this report should be regarded as statements of governmental views.

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