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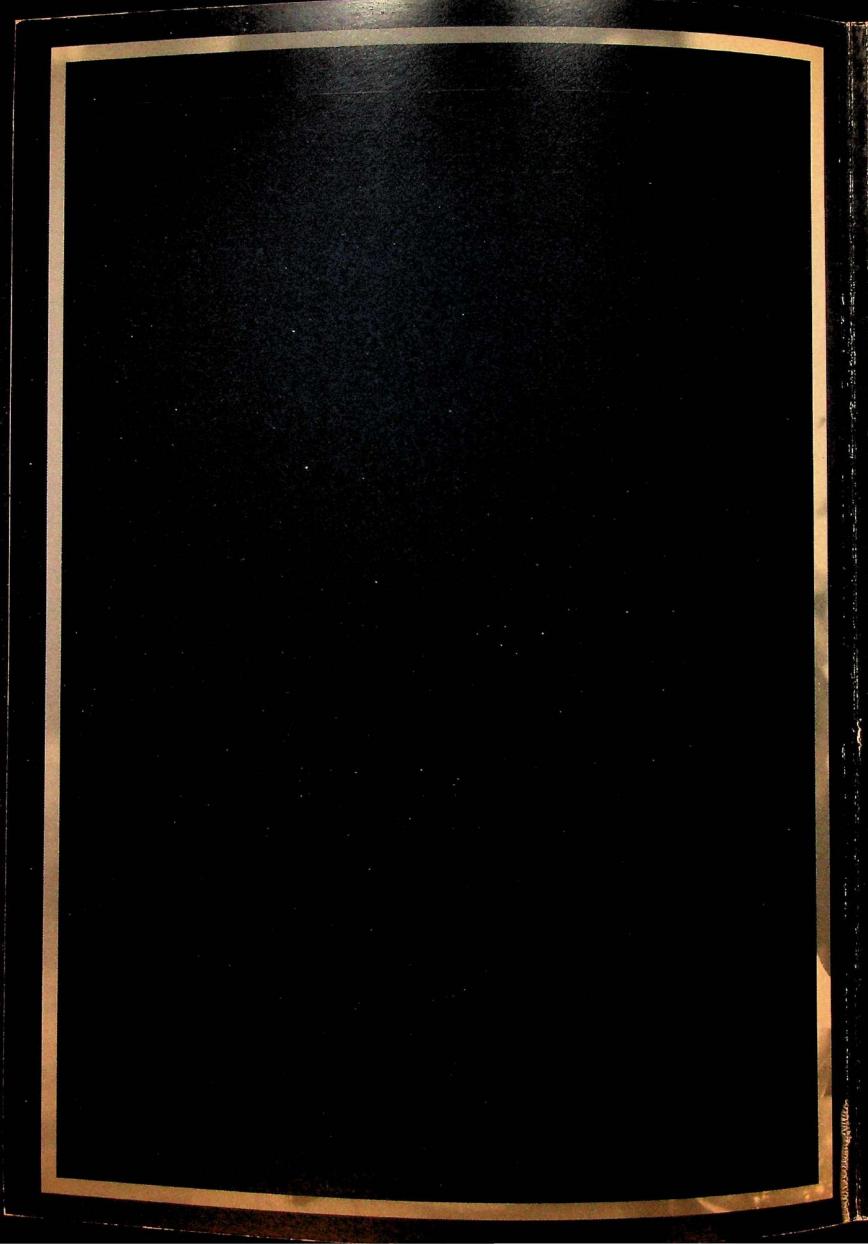
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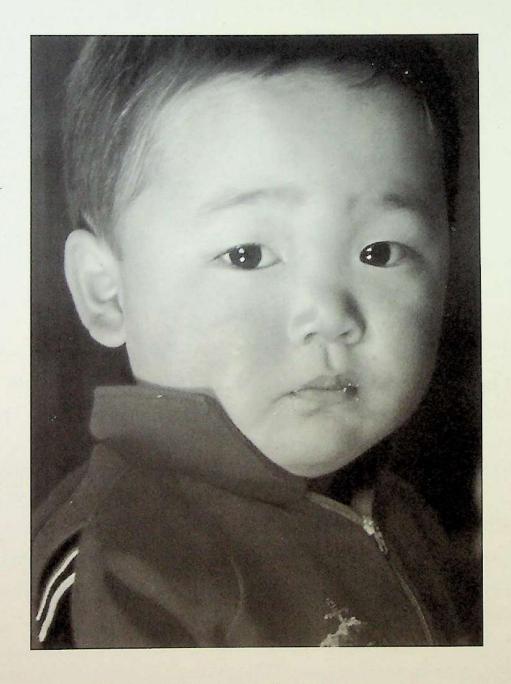


Reaching the Hungry
1996



World Food Programme

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Two years of devastating floods have worsened the food crisis in the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (North Korea).

Its 24 million inhabitants, including this child, are threatened by famine.

Cover photo: WFP/Tom Haskell

HIGHLIGHTS OF 1996

Introduction

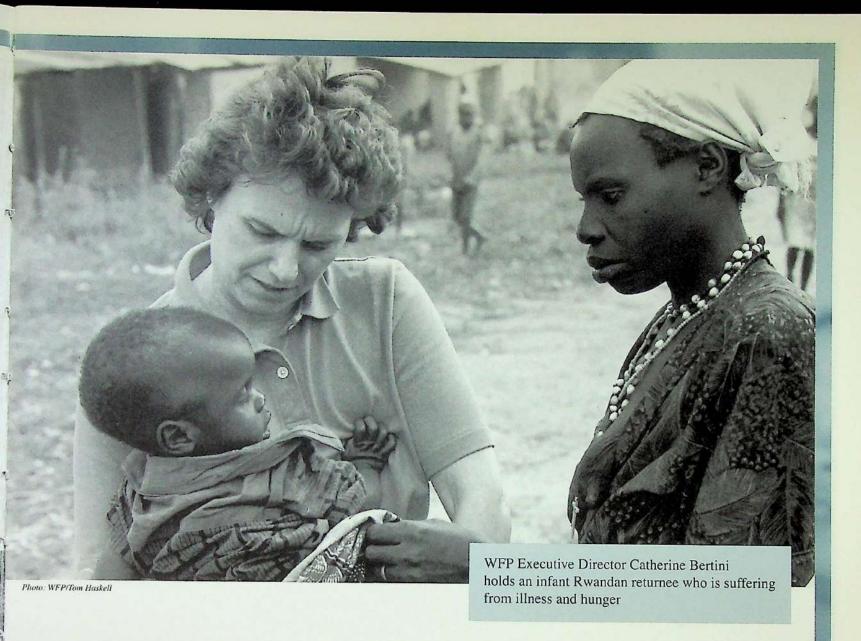
The World Food Programme's message to the presidents and ministers from around the globe who gathered at the World Food Summit in November 1996 was short and to the point — "food security is about people". Growing more food is important, but it is just as important to ensure that the people who need the food have access to it.

In 1996, WFP provided food to 45.3 million people worldwide. The organization aided refugee families in the camps of Kisangani, child soldiers being reunited with their families in Liberia, war-widows in Tajikistan, farmers whose crops were destroyed by devastating floods in North Korea, struggling indigenous communities in Guatemala and many millions more.

WFP wholeheartedly endorses the historic commitment taken by the Summit to "reduce the number of undernourished people to half their present level no later than 2015".

What is WFP's role? As a front-line agency in the battle against hunger, WFP and its donors respond to emergencies created by war, drought, floods and crop failure. But, vital as emergency assistance is, it is only the beginning. WFP also provides aid during the crucial periods of rehabilitation, and it supports long-term development projects aimed at consolidating progress toward self-sufficiency.

With the support of its donors, WFP delivered 2.2 million tons of food aid to 84 countries at a total cost of US\$1.2 billion in 1996. Seventy-three percent of the funds went to relief operations, more than two-thirds of the aid going to the Great Lakes region of Africa, Liberia, Sierra Leone, Angola, Afghanistan, Iraq and former Yugoslavia.



WFP takes pride in its reputation of being highly operational, efficient, quick to respond and close to the people it serves. In an effort to further improve its performance WFP is carrying out organizational reform that will streamline procedures, modernize systems and put more senior and specialized staff in the field.

To enhance its people-centred approach, WFP is strengthening its capacity to identify and reach the poorest and most vulnerable groups. It is seeking to make its assistance more effective by giving women a key role in ensuring food security, adopting participatory approaches and sharpening its focus on countries with the greatest need for food aid. It is in this way that WFP helps the victims of natural and man-made disasters and also some of the more than 800 million hungry poor around the globe.

WFP LIBRARY

Catherine Bertini **Executive Director**

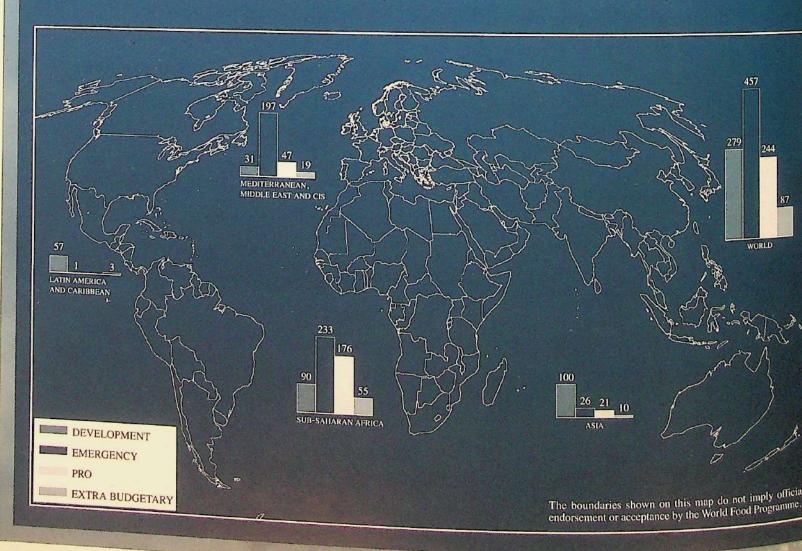
atherine Bertini

WFP: A MANDATE TO COMBAT HUNGER IN THE WORLD

The World Food Programme, established with its headquarters in Rome in 1963, is the food aid arm of the United Nations system. The world's largest international food aid organization, WFP uses food aid to:

- Save the lives of people caught up in humanitarian crises
- Support the most vulnerable, especially women and children, when food needs are critical so they are better able to attain their human potential
- Help the hungry poor become self-reliant and build assets such as roads, schools and irrigation systems in their communities

WFP OPERATIONAL EXPENDITURES BY REGION AND BY TYPE, 1996 (IN MILLION DOLLARS)



Facts and Figures for 1996

Beneficiaries: 45.3 million people in 84 countries worldwide

- 20.7 million people through projects to improve rural and human resources, including school feeding, health and nutrition
- 16 million people internally displaced by civil war and political conflict
- 4.5 million refugees, who fled their countries due to war and civil unrest
- 4.1 million victims of earthquakes, floods, droughts and other natural disasters

Number of projects: 57 relief operations, 174 development activities

Food delivered: 2.2 million tons, including 100,000 tons on behalf of bilateral donors

Food aid donations: 50% in kind - 50% purchased by WFP

Total WFP purchases

Food: US\$269 million (980,000 tons)

- Developing countries US\$166 million (61 percent)
- Developed countries US\$103 million (39 percent)

Non-food: US\$11.3 million

Transport and Related Costs: US\$306 million

WORLDWIDE OPERATIONS

AFRICA

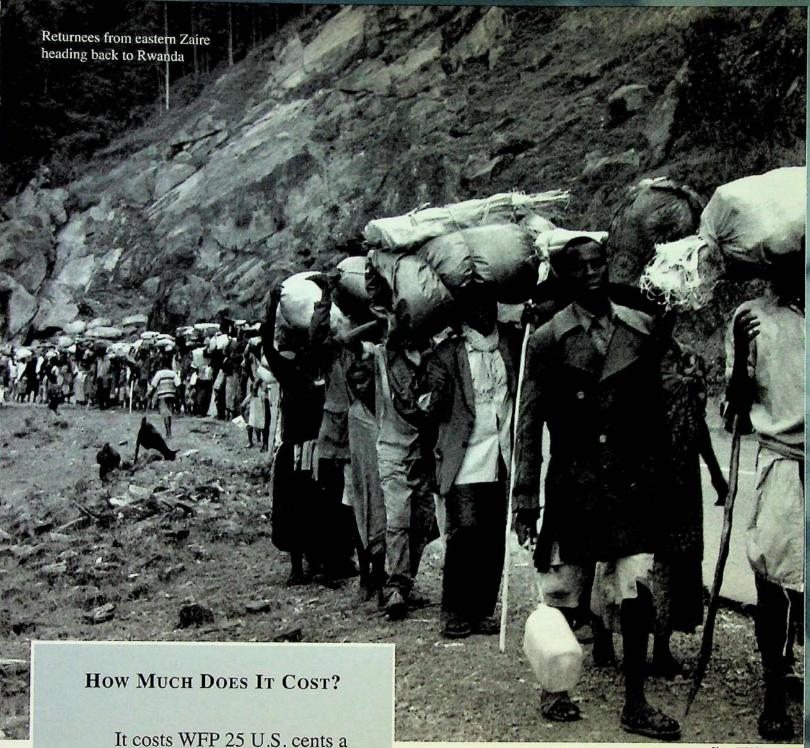
Great Lakes

As WFP increasingly concentrates resources on the poorest people in the neediest countries, more than half of its assistance has gone to **sub-Saharan Africa**, much of it in the form of emergency food aid. The **Great Lakes region** alone received 18 percent of all WFP relief food distributed in 1996, **Liberia** 9 percent and **Angola** 7 percent.

Faced with the increasingly dramatic situation of refugees in the **Great Lakes region**, WFP provided some 300,000 tons of food assistance to more than 2 million refugees in **Tanzania**, **eastern Zaire**, **Rwanda**, **Burundi** and **Uganda** during the year, often under extremely complex and dangerous conditions.

In the second half of 1996, a major humanitarian crisis arose with the outbreak of armed conflict in **eastern Zaire** and the dispersal of hundreds of thousands of people from refugee camps. Despite severe logistical problems, WFP helped in efforts to assess the dispersed populations and managed to distribute food rations in the towns of Goma and Bukavu in Zaire.

More than one million refugees from **Burundi**, **Zaire** and **Tanzania** returned to **Rwanda**. One phase of the mass movement was described by a WFP worker as resembling a "human wall" on each side of the highway as weary men, women and children, sometimes three deep, trudged home. WFP acted swiftly to provide high-energy biscuits to people on both sides of the borders and at strategic way-stations within Rwanda. Once the refugees reached their home villages, WFP provided two-month food packages to sustain people as they tried to reintegrate into the society they had fled.



day to feed a refugee in a camp compared to the US\$10 a day that

an average citizen in the developed world spends on food.

WFP is able to give a schoolchild a balanced lunch, fortified with micronutrients, for 10 cents, and it can boost income for a family of five in food-for-work projects for just US\$1 a day.

Even while coping with the influx of refugees, WFP was helping Rwanda to rebuild.

By November, 65 percent of WFP's programme in Rwanda was devoted to rehabilitation and reconstruction.

Liberia

The brutal fighting that erupted in Monrovia in April put a halt to demobilization and resettlement activities and created new emergency needs. WFP took the lead in humanitarian relief operations, providing emergency assistance to more than one million internally displaced persons and 400,000 refugees.

Working with the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), non-governmental organizations (NGOs) and key donors in **Liberia**, WFP developed a strategy centred on life-saving and sustaining assistance to vulnerable groups. At the same time, it cut stores of food to the barest minimum to lessen the danger of expropriation and theft by armed gangs.

Once stability returned to **Liberia** in November, WFP resumed efforts to help faction members, including child soldiers, return to civilian life. This process continues.

Southern Africa

In **Angola**, the emphasis is on long-term rehabilitation and resettlement. Programmes are aimed at mine clearance, reconstruction and rehabilitation, raising agricultural output, improving nutrition and health and generally increasing food security. Beneficiaries are mainly returnees, displaced people and demobilized soldiers and their families, who receive family rations for three months as they resettle.

Similar efforts are under way in **Mozambique** where small farmers are producing again, but the economy is still crippled by the destruction of rural infrastructure as a result of the long years of civil strife.

THE LOGISTICS OF FOOD AID

If getting the right food to the right people at the right time is the essence of a successful relief intervention, logistical support can spell the difference between success and failure.

To deal with the continuing emergency in the **Great Lakes** region during 1996, WFP not only maintained strategic food stocks but acted to ensure that relief operations could continue under the most adverse circumstances.

When the crisis broke out in eastern Zaire in November, WFP took the initiative to set up the United Nations Joint Logistics Centre with the full participation of UNHCR, the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), the United Nations Department of Humanitarian Affairs (DHA) and NGOs. This was an important undertaking, which enabled the international community to respond more effectively to the humanitarian crises in the region.

Logistical support in the **Great Lakes region**, financed by special funds from donors, included:

- Providing additional locomotives and spare parts and making repairs to improve the operations of the Tanzania Railways Corporation
- Funding port equipment in Tanzania, eastern Zaire and Uganda
- Rehabilitating port infrastructure and equipment and chartering barges on Lake Tanganyika
- Deploying 40 trucks plus tools and equipment from the Afghanistan cross-border operations to the Great Lakes region
- Leasing an aircraft to run a safe daily passenger service so that the staff of more than 60 relief organizations could continue working in **Burundi** despite the deteriorating security situation. The plane was also used to monitor relief activities and was available to evacuate international aid workers if necessary

When a new wave of civil unrest in **Liberia** cut Monrovia off from all viable air and land routes, WFP maintained its emergency operations and coordination work without interruption.

Using chartered vessels, it set up a sea-bridge that moved cargo along the coast and carried out rescue operations while successfully bypassing the fighting. A chartered, custom-built offshore supply vessel equipped with communications facilities and a helicopter landing deck stood by off the port of Monrovia in case the need to evacuate the international community arose.

In Angola, WFP coordinated an air service to avoid landmines and scattered violence. In West Africa, WFP carried out road rehabilitation and communications improvement projects. In Bosnia and Herzegovina, WFP supervised installation of a new countrywide communications network.

WFP delivers food by land, sea and air to where it is needed most. A convoy of trucks carries emergency relief food to refugees in Zaire 3438 STEYR 1910 UN-3303-WFP

PLANNING AHEAD FOR RAPID RESPONSE

WFP prepares to deal with emergencies before they arise. This proved vital during 1996.

The organization was able to respond swiftly and effectively to emergencies in Liberia, Sudan, Somalia and North Korea during the year and to meet the crisis that erupted in eastern Zaire in November.

Key elements of WFP's emergency response capacity are:

- Augmented Logistics Intervention Teams, which undertake logistical capacity assessments and scenario-based contingency planning
- Strategic stores of food and logistics equipment prepositioned in Nairobi and Pisa, Italy
- Stand-by arrangements providing for rapid deployment of personnel and equipment

In its contingency planning WFP, working with other major UN and NGO relief agencies, seeks to determine in advance what obstacles might arise in getting assistance to people in need and how to overcome them. This involves preparing and constantly up-dating scenarios covering possible changes in the political and security situations.

Contingency planning for the **Great Lakes region** had begun in mid-1995 and was up-dated throughout 1996. Thinking in terms of the region as a whole, planners developed scenarios for repatriating refugees under conditions of insecurity and when the possible escalation of hostilities leads to further internal displacement and influxes of refugees into neighbouring countries.

Both happened in late 1996, and WFP was ready with food stocks, transport, communications equipment, funds and trained staff in place for quick redeployment.

Tents, tarpaulins, pallets, handling equipment and materials, generators, personal security items and other specialized equipment were immediately available from the Strategic Logistics Stock for Africa, established in Nairobi in 1993.

WFP maintains a stockpile of high-energy biscuits to provide nourishment in the initial stages of crises. The biscuits contain soya, wheat flour, oil and added vitamins. They have a long shelf-life, are easy to handle and need no cooking or other preparation.

When the crisis erupted in eastern Zaire, WFP airlifted biscuits from its stockpile in a warehouse managed by DHA in the central Italian city of Pisa as well as from Norway under a stand-by arrangement. It also drew on prepositioned food stocks in Uganda and Tanzania and bought food locally.

WFP mobilized its emergency response teams and invoked stand-by arrangements with the Norwegian and Danish Refugee Councils, Swedish Rescue Services Agency and United Nations Volunteer Programme to rapidly provide communications, logistics and civil engineering experts, emergency staff, finance officers, food monitors and equipment.

A Crisis Support Facility established at WFP headquarters in Rome as a trial during the **Liberia** emergency earlier in the year gave additional support. The facility provided information processing and teleconferencing with WFP country offices and other United Nations agencies and helped operation planning. It also served as a forum for meetings, briefings and decision-making as the crisis unfolded.

WORLDWIDE OPERATIONS

ASIA AND THE PACIFIC

North Korea

As a whole, the region of Asia and the Pacific is the largest user of WFP food aid for development. WFP's activities in 11 countries of the region represented 15 percent of operational expenditures in 1996. Emergency assistance was also significant, especially WFP's relief operation in **North Korea**.

A second year of highly destructive flooding left large areas of the country's agricultural land covered by sand and debris. The floods also badly damaged river embankments, irrigation systems, roads and bridges. The country lost 900,000 tons of cereal production, and about 14 percent of the land for grain production remained unusable after the 1995 floods.

WFP delivered some 18,200 tons of rice during the first half of 1996. Then, in May, WFP and the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) issued a special alert, reporting that the food supply situation had deteriorated even more seriously than expected.

WFP increased its assistance in the second half of the year to provide 41,600 tons of food aid to 1.6 million flood victims, children under five years of age, participants in food-for-work projects in flood-damaged areas, farmers and their families.

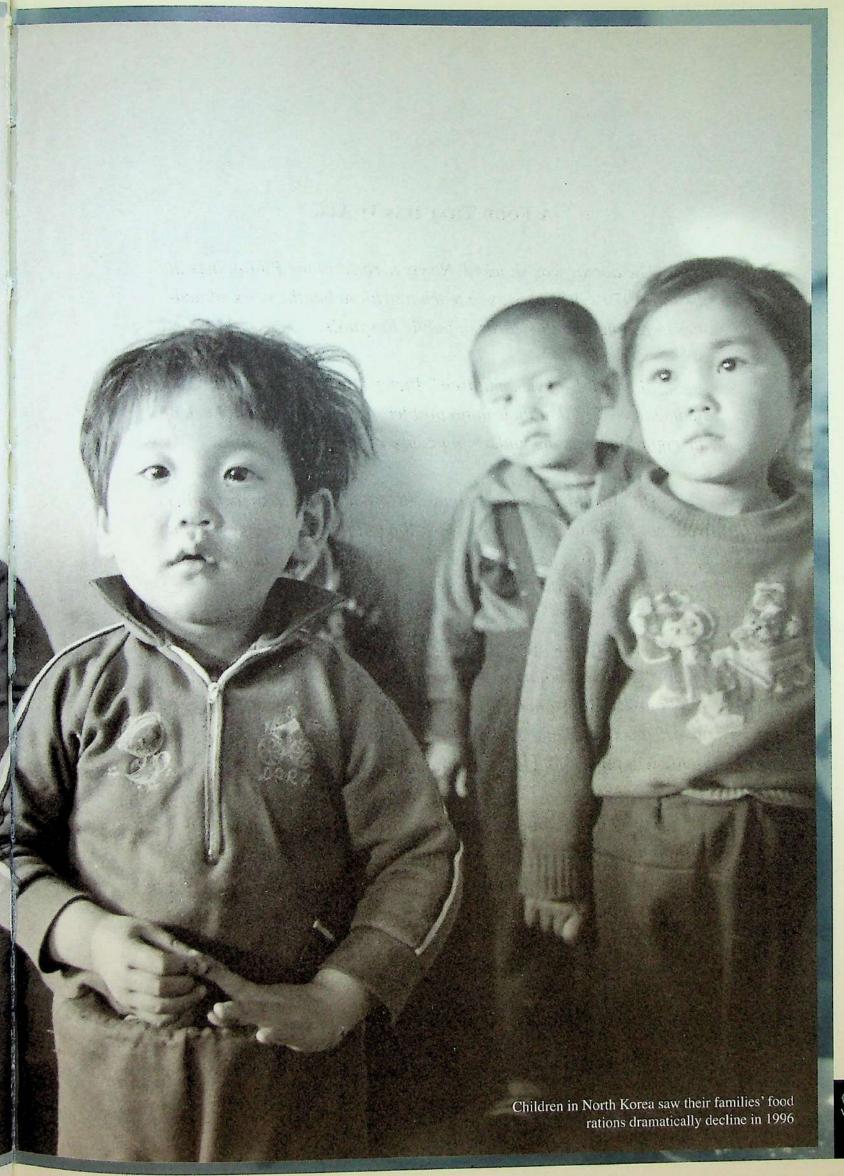
Having established an office in Pyongyang in November 1995, WFP was able to monitor food aid deliveries and provide information on the food security situation. As one of the few humanitarian agencies working in **North Korea**, WFP distributed and helped to monitor 17,000 tons of food aid from NGOs, including CARITAS and World Vision.

But **North Korea's** situation continued to worsen. In December, a FAO/WFP crop and food supply assessment mission found that the country faced an overall food deficit of 2.3 million tons and that food would run out in June of 1997.

Development in Asia

Development projects in the region were aimed at helping poor rural people to improve their food security. They included self-help training and credit schemes for poor women in **Bangladesh**; helping rural communities in **China**, **India** and **Nepal** to select and implement local infrastructure improvement and income-generating schemes, plus nutrition and health programmes for targeted vulnerable groups in **India** and **Viet Nam**.

North Korea: workers at a WFP food-for-work site clearing fields of sand and silt left behind by devastating floods



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A FOOD THAT HAS IT ALL

The doctor was shocked. Newly arrived in the Philippines in the late 1970's, his job was to teach nutrition, but the work sometimes took him onto the wards of public hospitals.

"I saw lots of sick children," Pieter Dijkhuizen recalls. "And I came to realize that their main problem was malnutrition. Lack of the right food was the underlying cause of their poor health."

Dr. Dijkhuizen, who is Dutch, also realized that their mothers were not to blame. "They were spending all the money they had on food for the kids", he says. "But there just was not enough of that food for a healthy diet."

Twenty years later in a remote village of Rajasthan in northwest India a young woman called Kamini carries home a bag of a flour-like substance that will form the basis of her evening meal. Thanks to Pieter Dijkhuizen and his colleagues, she and her family will have enough to eat that day.

The children that the doctor had seen in the hospitals in the Philippines were among the many millions of people in the world whose diet is not sufficient for good health. Hunger afflicts hundreds of millions. Several hundred million suffer from a lack of essential nutrients in what they do eat. The consequences can be

tragic, from blindness caused by not enough vitamin A to brain damage from insufficent iodine.

One solution to the problem lay, the doctor knew, in low-cost blended foods, which consist of several ingredients — usually grains and pulses — combined to make a single product containing all the protein, fats, carbohydrates, vitamins and minerals needed for a healthy diet.

Excellent products of this type were already being made in the United States. They could reach millions more of the hungry if only they could be produced close to the areas where they were most needed, making transport cheap and distribution more efficient.

Dr. Dijkhuizen returned home and went to work on that challenge with a team of colleagues. He learned so much about blended foods that he became a world expert in the field, and for the past eight years he has lent that knowledge and expertise to WFP.

Today, low-cost blended foods are produced in more than a dozen countries, largely thanks to WFP. The latest to benefit is India, and plans are in the pipeline to make the foods in Haiti and other countries. They are especially useful in emergencies like the Rwanda crisis and particularly in the feeding of vulnerable women and children.

In **Viet Nam**, food-for-work projects also rehabilitated sea dikes that protect farm land from the ravages of cyclones and permit planting of higher-yielding rice.

More than three-quarters of WFP's assistance to **Cambodia** was for development of rural infrastructure. WFP aid has helped to clear more than 34 project sites of mines as well as repairing or building roads, irrigation canals, small dams, dikes, ponds and wells.

Although **Myanmar** is a food exporting country and would not normally receive assistance, WFP has been working there since 1994 to encourage the return of Rohingya refugees who had fled to Bangladesh in the early 1990s. A special, bilaterally funded food-for-work rehabilitation programme provides short-term employment for landless returnees while building feeder roads and other rural infrastructure in a poor area of the country. The programme was more than tripled in the 1995-96 dry season, but at the end of 1996, some 31,000 refugees were still to be repatriated.

The Mediterranean, Middle East and CIS Region

Twenty-eight percent of WFP's operational expenses are directed to the region made up of the Mediterranean, Middle East and the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS).

The **former Yugoslavia** received 16 percent of WFP's relief food in 1996, second only to the **Great Lakes region**. WFP provided emergency rations to some 2.6 million refugees, returnees, displaced persons and other especially vulnerable groups, most of them in **Bosnia and Herzegovina**. In order to help reinforce the peace process, WFP is exploring ways of using food aid to encourage economic recovery and promote employment.

PLOT FOR A BETTER FUTURE

Bobokalonova Uguloi is one of thousands of women in the former Soviet republic of Tajikistan left to bring up their children alone as a result of the 1992-93 civil war.

Bobokalonova and her family fled their home with only the clothes on their backs and moved to the far south of the country. Her husband disappeared, and no one knows if he is dead or alive. She has sometimes had to go from house to house begging food for her three daughters.

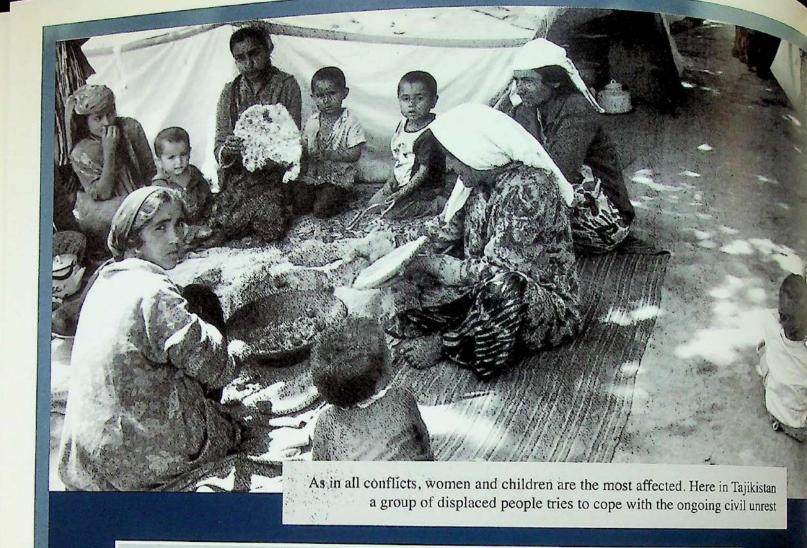
Her plight is not unusual. Tajikistan is the poorest of the former Soviet republics and is struggling to recover from a civil war that left tens of thousands dead and made displaced persons or refugees of 900,000 people. Food is in short supply and prices have rocketed by more than 500 percent.

United Nations monitors say they have seen mothers trying to sell their children in the marketplaces and heard villagers declare they were considering suicide rather than starve.

But now, thanks to an innovative new scheme of WFP, the future looks a little brighter for Bobokalonova and others like her. WFP is working with the authorities to enable them to privately lease plots of irrigated land of one-half to one hectare to farm.

WFP supports them during the difficult first year — before their efforts can yield results — by paying them in food so that they can devote all their energies to farming.

More than 1,200 families are now participating, and the target is 10,000.



"Things have been very difficult for the population as a whole," says Trevor Martin, who set up the scheme for the WFP. "People are living in great poverty, some of them starving. Many have sold everything they had."

"I think this scheme is useful because under the present situation, the Government has not made much progress in terms of land reform. We are trying to give an opportunity to the most vulnerable part of the rural society to become more self-sufficient and also to assist in improving agricultural output generally."

For Bobokalonova, it has made all the difference.

"The World Food Programme helped me to lease half a hectare of land, and I'm hoping that the maize I'm growing will help me to get through the winter. If I have land and I can cultivate it, it will give some harvest," Bobokalonova said.

"That gives me hope for the future."

A decade of conflict and the aftermath of the Gulf War left the economy of **Iraq** in ruins and many households unable to feed themselves. In 1996, with alarming reports that health and nutrition had seriously deteriorated throughout the country, WFP increased its emergency assistance to cover 2.15 million members of vulnerable groups.

In 1995, the United Nations Security Council adopted Resolution 986, which allows for the sale of up to US\$2 billion of Iraqi petroleum for a period of six months. A Memorandum of Understanding signed by the Government of Iraq and the United Nations in May 1996 laid out general procedures for the implementation of the resolution. The Government of Iraq provided an inventory of the items it intended to purchase for the humanitarian programme. The oil-for-food deal was approved by the Secretary-General in July 1996, and under the agreement, WFP was given the responsibility of putting in place an observation system to assure the equity, efficiency and adequacy of food distribution to the Iraqi people on a countrywide basis. It also received food at selected handover points to transport and distribute to the populations in the three northern governorates.

In **Afghanistan**, WFP had developed rehabilitation activities for some 1.2 million returnees and internally displaced persons, many of them war widows and orphans, in most of the country's war-affected communities.

Under one programme, WFP supplied wheat flour to bakeries in urban areas, which then provided subsidized *naan* bread to some 350,000 people from the most vulnerable groups during the winter when bread is the mainstay of the diet. The proceeds were reinvested in the communities, mainly in programmes to teach trades to the handicapped, war widows and single heads of households.

The fall of Kabul to fighters of the Moslem fundamentalist Taliban in September and the restrictions they placed on women's activities outside their homes impaired WFP's rehabilitation work, most of which involves women and children. WFP's new strategy for assistance to **Afghanistan** concentrates on humanitarian relief and life-sustaining rehabilitation activities in areas where both national and international WFP and NGO female staff are allowed to work and to monitor activities.



A QUESTION OF GENDER

When the fundamentalist Taliban took control of Kabul in September 1996, they promptly issued an edict restricting the movement of women outside their homes. WFP, like other aid agencies, found its operations seriously impaired. The edict appeared to preclude both the work of women employees and projects attempting to aid women.

But the Taliban reckoned without Nasiba Ghulam Nabi.

At the age of 25 Ghulam Nabi had been a departmental head in the Afghan civil service. Four years later she held a key post with WFP, working with its projects for women.

The immediate effect of the Taliban edict was to close down those projects, which included bakeries that produced naan bread, a staple of the Afghan diet, at subsidized prices. The proceeds were reinvested in programmes to train the handicapped, war widows and single heads of households and in other community projects.

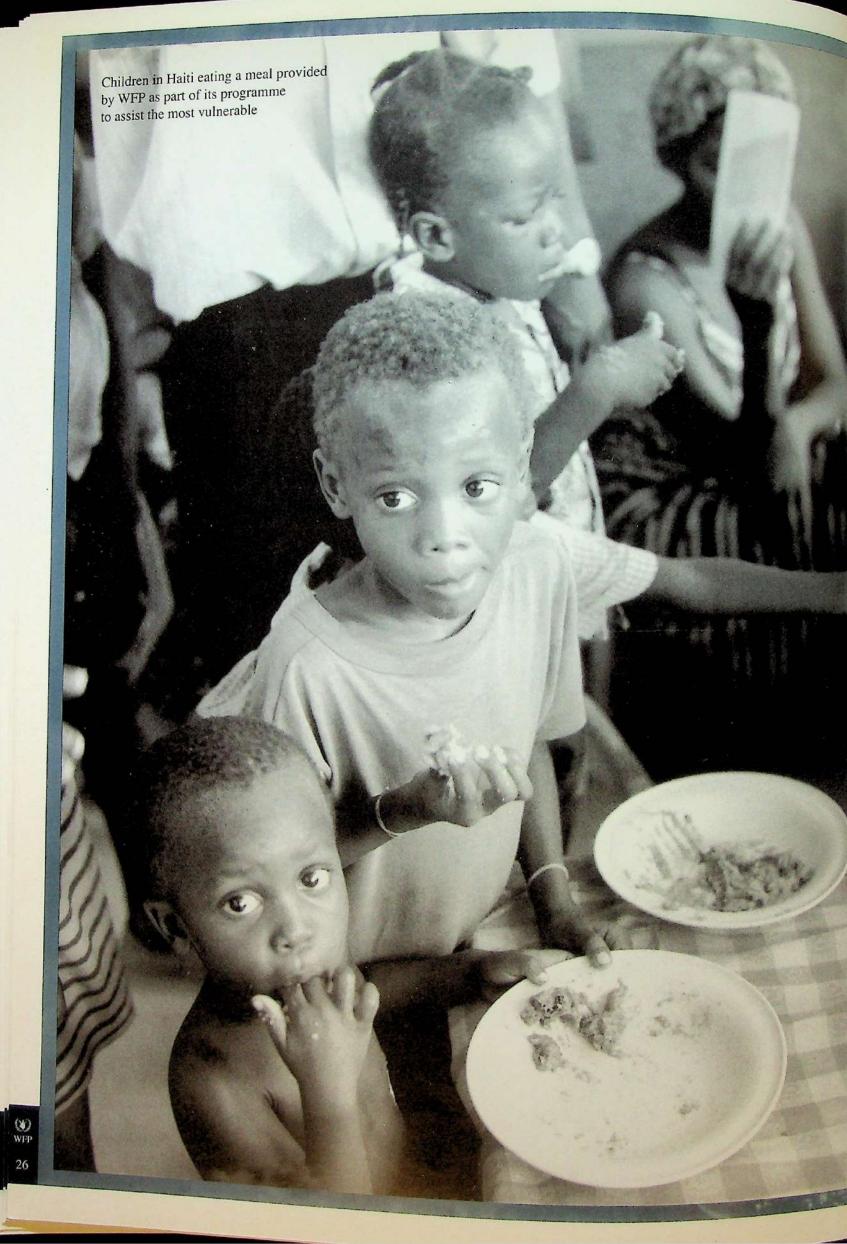
Ghulam Nabi put on the "bukra," a head-to-toe gown with mesh across the face that is mandatory under the Taliban, and moved out of the WFP offices. But she did not stop working. She helped WFP negotiate an agreement with Taliban officials to allow women's projects that were staffed and run entirely by women to continue operating, and she continued to coordinate the projects.

In a special award presented to Ghulam Nabi in Rome to mark International Women's Day, WFP Executive Director Catherine Bertini, commended her "for her persevering work with women ... undertaken against a background of restrictions in social conduct and mobility for women, and at a time when no other women from aid agencies were continuing to work in public".

Other winners of the 1997 WFP Awards for Improving the Lives of Women were:

Khalida Malik, assistant programme officer in Pakistan, "for her prioneering work to provide new opportunities and benefits for women through projects concerned with natural resource rehabilitation".

The 27 members of the Southern Sudan Team, "in recognition of their drive to enlist the help of local women, through relief committees, in the emergency food operation in Southern Sudan".



Latin America and the Caribbean

In Latin America and the Caribbean, WFP supported efforts by governments and communities to help the poorest households become productive and to provide dietary support through targeted interventions in primary health care and pre-school and primary education.

WFP's assistance in Central America was aimed at helping to consolidate peace through the resettlement of war-affected people in **Nicaragua** and aid to returnees and displaced persons in **Guatemala**.

In **Haiti**, assistance was directed at developing human resources in schoolchildren, returnees and other vulnerable groups, and rehabilitating and conserving natural resources. One project provided food for pre-school children over the age of two years, half of whom already showed signs of malnutrition. Another targeted 100,000 children in the north and west of the country where malnutrition reportedly afflicts as many as 15 percent of children.

In **Peru**, a primary school feeding project started in August 1996 for children in three departments most affected by the violence of the early 1990s. A watershed management project in the Andean highlands continued to benefit more than 56,000 families, one third of them headed by women.

WFP worked in **Jamaica** to expand and improve vocational training, employment generation and micro-enterprise development. A joint project with the Government makes training, credit and food stamps accessible to the poorest Jamaicans, especially women, until they find a job or set up a viable micro-enterprise.



WOMEN IN EMERGENCIES WOMEN IN DEVELOPMENT

WFP considers the empowerment of women essential to food security.

Women make up a large share of those in need of emergency aid. In 1996, WFP assisted 20.5 million people who had to abandon their homes because of war and civil conflicts. Of these, more than 15 million were women and children, all too often the first to experience the effects of hunger in the midst of political violence, drought or other disasters.

But women can also serve as important agents of social change in the developing world. Women grow 80 percent of the food in Africa and 60 percent in Asia, and it is women who traditionally take responsibility for household food security. Experience has shown that families are better fed when income is in the hands of women rather than men. This is because women are more likely to use money to feed their children and expand their farm or business.

During 1996, WFP intensified its efforts to build literacy among women and strengthen their economic role. It also involved them more in assessing food aid needs, distributing food aid to households and monitoring the aid.

In 1996, each of WFP's country offices and units at headquarters adopted specific action plans designed to ensure gender equality and to give women a stronger voice in local decision-making about food aid and the assets it creates.

WFP also asked its NGO partners and governments receiving WFP assistance to take the same approach. It included provisions relating to gender-specific planning, targeting and distribution of food in the Memoranda of Understanding it signed with NGOs. Plans of operations signed with government authorities provide for a substantial voice for women in local committees.

This policy is bearing fruit.

State governments in **India** have guaranteed a minimum number of places for women on Village Forest Protection Management Committees. More women leaders are emerging in **Viet Nam** through the technical and management training they have received in food-for-work activities. In **Chechnya**, women sit on committees that assess and implement projects, and in **Tunisia**, they are elected to all development committees.

When **Rwanda** was preparing to receive returning refugees from **Tanzania** in late 1996, the Minister of Family and Women's Promotion agreed to distribute WFP's food assistance through women representatives in local administrative structures. For the women involved, the new arrangements meant opportunities for paid labour, access to information crucial for their daily struggle to provide food for the family and a boost to their image at the community level.

THE CHANCE TO SPREAD HER WINGS

"I'm not just anyone," Banesa says. "People in the village seek me out."

But it was not always that way. Over the past eight years her life has been transformed. She has left the borderlines of starvation and begun a journey of self-discovery.

Banesa — no one in the village bothers with a surname for her—was born into rural destitution in Bangladesh, one of the world's poorest countries. And hers was the poorest class of all: those with neither land nor jobs. Married since she was barely out of childhood, she has had to support a sick husband and three children. Life was desperately hard.

"I'd ask for help at other people's houses, and they would chase me away," she remembers. "They had no time for me." When she could get the work she earned meagre amounts as a casual labourer doing light agricultural jobs. From time to time the food ran out. There was no money to buy more and the family had to go without.

Then came opportunity, and Banesa seized it with both hands.

A project that WFP is running with the Government of Bangladesh and the Bangladesh Rural Advancement Committee (BRAC), an NGO, helped Banesa and hundreds of thousands of other very poor women in rural areas to become more self-reliant and better able to earn money.

For Banesa, the key to a better future was a course in poultry rearing. During two years of training, she received a monthly supply of wheat from WFP to help feed her family. The government supplied chicks and vaccines; BRAC did the training, and the European Union (EU), the Australian Government and WFP donated wheat which was sold and the proceeds used to create a credit scheme for the women.

Whenever possible, WFP gives something more than food, something that will make a permanent difference and help to break the cycle of poverty. In this project, women receive classes in hygiene, nutrition and literacy — crucial in a country where eight out of ten women cannot read or write.

The unimaginable followed. Banesa opened a bank account. Her hard work has since paid for a plot of cultivable land and three modest dwellings. She keeps poultry and goats and grows paddy, eggplants, pumpkins and bananas to sell. She plans to open a grocery shop, which her husband would run.

REFORM

For WFP, reform means continually revitalizing itself to meet the challenges of the future.

The reform process, which has been at the top of WFP's agenda for five years, is aimed at consolidating WFP's people-centred approach, increasing accountability, improving management systems, mobilizing resources more effectively and strengthening its advocacy role. By streamlining procedures, modernizing systems, putting more of its senior and specialized staff in the field and giving them more authority to make timely decisions, WFP will be better equipped to fulfill its mandate to assist the hungry poor.

For example, WFP's administrative costs are only 9 percent of the overall budget, one of the lowest in the United Nations system and comparable to the best run NGOs. In fact, on its own initiative, WFP was the first major UN agency to voluntarily cut its administrative budget in real terms.

WFP is streamlining its activities to better help the poorest countries. In order to concentrate its development assistance on the least developed countries, WFP phased out operational activities in 15 better-off countries during 1996 and plans to close down in seven more in 1997 and 1998. In other countries, it will turn the functions of Country Offices over to Regional Offices to cut costs. WFP will also ask those recipient countries that have the capacity to share costs by contributing local food or paying the ocean freight for contributed food. All this will enable WFP to give a larger share of its resources to the countries that need it most.

To ensure accountability, WFP established the Office of Inspection and Investigation, doubled the staff of its Office of Internal Audit and launched a Financial Management Improvement Programme. WFP was the first major United Nations agency to appoint an inspector.

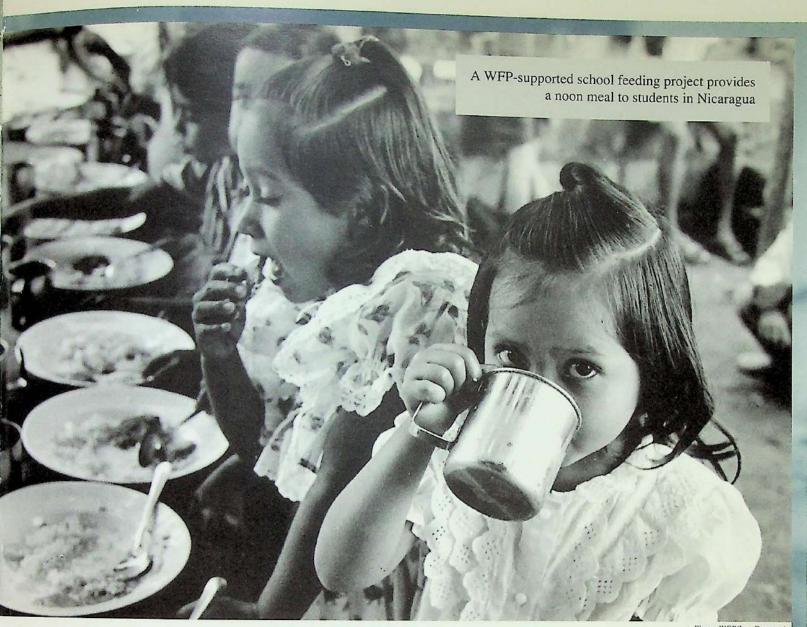


Photo: WFP/Lou Dematteis

The organization is employing new tools that provide the precision needed to decide where, how and to whom aid should go.

In order to improve its targeting of assistance to the poorest and most vulnerable groups, WFP is strengthening its capacity to carry out vulnerability analysis and mapping (VAM) — an innovative system for pinpointing food needs.

Collaborating with FAO's Global Information and Early Warning System, USAID's Famine Early Warning System and NGOs, WFP's VAM unit produces reports — and maps — that describe a country's socio-economic situation and identify potentially vulnerable areas. This information about food insecurity among groups of people and their capacity for coping is essential both for making contingency plans for emergency assistance and for long-term planning.

In 1996, WFP established new VAM field units in **Tanzania** and **Senegal** to add to those already operational in **Ethiopia**, **Sudan**, **Pakistan**, **Malawi**, **Zambia** and **Cambodia**.

WFP has also worked closely with Save the Children (UK) to apply another new methodology, **Household Food Economy Analysis**, which provides a better understanding of how refugees live, their coping mechanisms, their access to food and their sources of income. Together with UNHCR, WFP has used this system of analysis to assess food security and needs in the **Great Lakes region** and **Ethiopia**.

WFP values **collaboration with partner agencies**. In 1996, it worked with UN agencies, including UNHCR, UNICEF, DHA, IFAD, UNDP and FAO, with the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) and with more than 1,000 other international and national NGOs. WFP also contributed to capacity building by training 3,124 counterparts in 42 developing countries.

All of this is intended to make WFP a stronger, more flexible and effective agency, better able to meet the needs of the hungry poor.

Conclusion: Looking to the Future

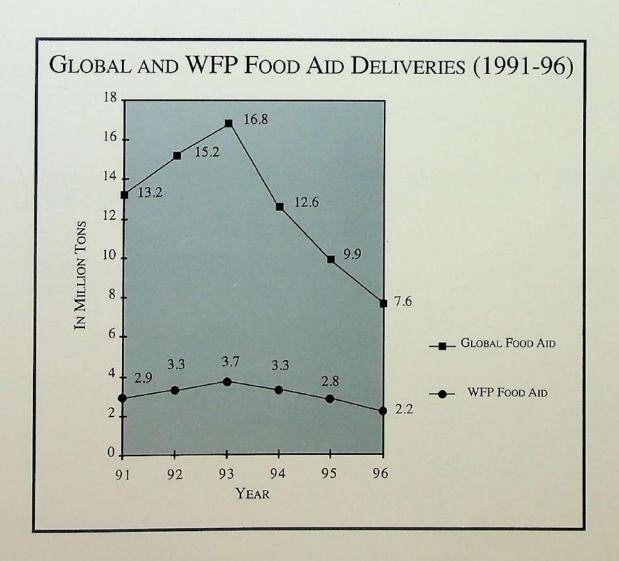
WFP has been able to effectively respond to new and ongoing humanitarian emergencies. But the long-term challenges for WFP and the international community as a whole are daunting.

The good news is that the number of the hungry poor is expected to decline through increased global food production. The World Bank projects a total of about 600 million people in this category (those who earn less

than US\$1 per day) by the year 2010. However, these will be the poorest of the poor, chronically suffering from hunger. To help these people we will need 27 million tons of food aid by the year 2005. This is in sharp contrast to the 7.6 million tons in global food aid provided last year.

WFP Executive Director Catherine Bertini has appealed to the international community to re-examine its priorities. Her appeal comes amidst signs that the percentage of gross domestic product (GDP) devoted by rich countries to helping poor countries is at its lowest level in 20 years.

We believe that this decline in assistance is a mistake not only in humanitarian but also in political terms. We will all stand to benefit when today's hungry poor become proud and productive members of our global society.



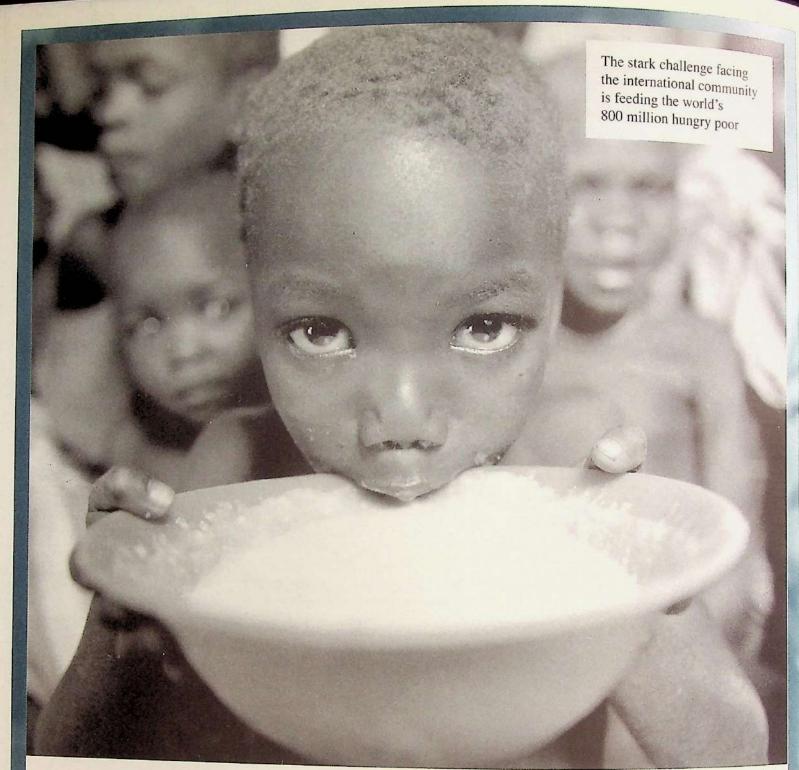


Photo: WFP/Crisput Hughes

BRAC	Repolated D. C. C.	CRONYMS USED	
CIS DHA EU ICRC IEFR INTERFAIS IRA LDC	Bangladesh Rural Advancement Committee Commonwealth of Independent States Department of Humanitarian Affairs (United Nations) European Union International Committee of the Red Cross International Emergency Food Reserve (WFP) International Food Aid Information System (WFP) Immediate Response Account of the IEFR (WFP) Least developed country Low-income, food-deficit country	NFI NGO PRO SO UN UNHCR UNICEF USAID VAM WFP	Non-food items Non-governmental organization Protracted refugee and internally displaced person project (WFP) Special Operations (WFP) United Nations United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees United Nations Children's Fund United States Agency for International Development Vulnerability Assessment Mapping (WFP) World Food Programme

Annexes

GLOBAL FOOD AID PROFILE 1992-96

	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996 ¹
1. Total food aid deliveries	15.2	16.9	12.6	9.9	7.6
(in million tons - cereals in grain equivalent)	13.4	15.1	10.7	9.6	
Cereals		1.8		8.6	6.7
Non-cereals	1.8	1.0	1.9	1.3	0.9
Food aid procurement in developing countries (percent of total)	9.5	9.7	11.6	16.5	15.3
3. Food aid deliveries by channel (percent of total)					
Bilateral	60	65	52	50	50
Multilateral (WFP representing	22	22	27	29	29
more than 95 percent)	22	22	21	2)	23
NGOs	18	13	21	21	21
4. Food aid deliveries by category (percent of total)					
Programme	50	60	4.4	41	20
Relief	33	60	44	41	38
Project		25	34	35	36
Tioject	17	15	22	24	26
5. Food aid deliveries by region (percent of total)					
Sub-Saharan Africa	40	29	34	33	35
South and East Asia	18	12	20	23	27
Europe and CIS	20	41	28	27	18
Latin America and Caribbean	12	12	11	9	10
North Africa and Middle East	10	6	7	8	10
	10	U	1	0	10
6. Food aid deliveries by country special status category (percent of total)					
Deliveries to developing countries	07	60	0.6	00	0.2
Deliveries to low-income,	87	68	86	93	93
food-deficit countries (LIFDC)	80	62	78	76	78
Deliveries to least developed countries	44	29	45	43	49
7. Total cereal food aid deliveries					
expressed as percent of:					
World cereal production					
World cereal imports ²	0.7	0.8	0.6	0.4	0.3
	6.2	7.1	5.6	4.3	3.2
8. Cereal food aid deliveries to LIFDC					
expressed as percent of					
LIFDC cereal production	1.0			124	0.6
LIFDC cereal imports ²	1.3	1.1	1.0	0.8	0.6
	14.8	13.3	13.5	9.4	7.8
Provisional					

¹ Provisional

² Import statistics refer to July/June periods ending in the reported years except for rice, which refers to the calendar year shown

Source: WFP (INTERFAIS), March 1997 and FAO, Food Outlook, March 1997

DEVELOPMENT OPERATIONS APPROVED IN 1996

Country	Project number	Froject title	Planned od beneficiaries per annum (*000)	Planned food beneficiaries Total WFP food per annum commitments ('000) ('000 tons)	Total WFP cost (million dollars)	Total cost (million dollars)	Duration (years)
Banoladesh	Ranoladesh 2197 (Exp. 10)	Rural development programme	2250	187.0	59.3	120.9	2
Cane Verde	Cane Verde 2394 (Fxn 5)	Assistance to a school canteen programme	73	11.2	11.8	12.6	4
China	5652	North-east Sichuan integrated agricultural development project	212	76.2	0.61	70.5	5
	5686	Agricultural production for food security in Granma province	06	26.9	17.2	45.4	3
	5586	Resource management and environmental protection in the western desert	ert 62	6.6	3.8	8.7	5
ia.	2729 (Exp. 2)	Community-based rural development and food security		3.9	2.9	3.7	3
Gaza West							
Bank	5761	Support to social safety net programmes in the Gaza Strip	20	8.0	3.9	7.7	-
Iordan	5783	Support to participatory land improvement	9/	47.9	16.0	73.1	5
Malawi	5782	Enhanced food security through targeted food for work	35	6.9	2.1	3.4	1.5
Mauritania	055 (Fxn 7)	Assistance to basic education sector	52	7.4	8.7	6.7	4
Niger	2445 (Exp. 4)	Food assistance to primary schools in nomadic areas	26	15.5	12.5	14.3	4
Viet Nam	5322	Smallholder forestry development in five provinces					
		of north-east Viet Nam	310	41.6	15.9	19.3	4
Zaire	5732	Food security in Kinshasa	40	3.6	2.5	2.5	2
		L d					
Budget incr	reases approved	Budget increases approved by the Executive board	58	3.4	1.8	1.8	-
Sudan	531 (Exp. 2)	Assistance to primary and secondary boarding-schools	95	9.3	4.3	4.3	_
Dudget inc	John John John John John John John John	D. And increases approved by the Executive Director		22.2	17		
TOTAL	reases approve		3529	471.6	194.4	393.6	

EMERGENCY OPERATIONS APPROVED IN 1996

			Planned	Total MED Co.	Teach William	E	
Country Project number		Project title	per annum (*000)	commitments (*000 tons)	(million dollars)	(million dollars)	Duration (years)
		Feeding of displaced Tuaregs from Mali	9	6.0	8.0	8.0	∞
Armenia 5301 (Exp. 2)		Food assistance for refugees, internally displaced persons and other vulnerable groups	250	15.2	8.4	8.4	10
Azerbaijan 5302 (Exp. 2)		Internally displaced persons and other vulnerable groups	225	19.3	10.5	10.5	12
Cuba 5792	Fo	Food assistance for hurricane victims	205	8.8	3.8	3.8	3
Ethiopia 5764	Re	Relief food assistance to acute food deficit areas	550	31.7	10.6	9.01	12
Georgia 5315 (Exp. 2)		Emergency food assistance for internally displaced and					
		other vulnerable groups	300	26.3	13.7	13.7	12
Korea DPR 5710 (Exp. 1)		Food assistance to flood victims and children below age of five	1575	9.07	25.9	25.9	10
Lebanon 5775	Em	Emergency food assistance to displaced persons from		2			
	nos	southern Lebanon	100	0.7	0.7	0.7	-
Mozambique 5770	Foc	Food assistance to flood victims, returnees and former IDPs	163	23.9	9.2	9.2	10
Russian							
Fed. 5665 (Exp. 1)		Emergency food assistance for internally displaced					
	per	persons from Chechnya	92	7.5	5.2	5.2	10
Rwanda 5624 (Exp. 1)		Food assistance to victims of Rwanda/Burundi regional emergency	2330	239.2	160.4	160.4	6
Sierra							
Leone 5767	Rel	Relief food aid for internally displaced persons in Sierra Leone	609	42.4	25.6	25.6	6
Tajikistan 5253 (Exp. 2)		Emergency food assistance for vulnerable groups	400	26.1	15.8	15.8	=
Virgoslavia 5142 (Fxn. 4)		Assistance to refugees returnees displaced persons and					
dur)		war-affected people	2246	221.1	159.4	159.4	12
Yemen 5785	Flo	Flood-affected people in the Governorates of Shabwa and Marib	4	0.3	0.1	0.1	-
Zaire 5742	Suc	Sudanese refugees in upper Zaire	81	1.6	:	1.1	9
Budget increases1				06	55.1		
TOTAL			9113.0	825.6	506.3	451.2	

N.B. Commitments inclusive of budget revisions (+/-) as of 31 December 1996.

' For operations approved prior to reporting period

PROTRACTED RELIEF OPERATIONS APPROVED IN 1996

Country	Project number	Project title	Planned food beneficiaries per annum	Total WFP food	Total WFP cost	Total cost	Duration
			(000,)	(*000 tons)	(million dollars)	(million dollars)	(months)
Afghanistan	Afghanistan 5086 (Exp. 4)	Relief and rehabilitation in Afghanistan	1500	173.7	80.0	93.5	12
Algeria	4155 (Exp. 6)	Food assistance to vulnerable groups among					ļ
		western Saharan refugees	80	2.6	5.5	10.9	12
Bangladesh	Bangladesh 5329 (Exp. 1)	Food assistance to Rohingya refugees from Myanmar	24	5.7	2.1	8.4	12
Cambodia	5483 (Exp. 3)	Programme for rehabilitation	1710	6.99	37.6	37.8	18
Djibouti	4960 (Exp. 2)	Food assistance to Ethiopian and Somali refugees	40	3.2	1.9	3.1	12
Ethiopia	5241 (Exp. 2)	Food assistance for Somali, Sudanese, Djiboutian and					l'
		Kenyan refugees in Ethiopia and Ethiopian returnees					
		from neighbouring countries	307	81.5	43.2	60.2	18
Iran	4161 (Exp. 4)	Food assistance to Iraqi refugees	99	12.9	5.4	11	12
Iran	4258 (Exp. 6)	Feeding of Afghan refugees in Iran and support for repatriation	322	19.2	7.5	24.5	12
Liberia	4604 (Exp. 5)	Targeted food assistance to internally displaced persons					ı
		in Liberia, refugees in Guinea, Cote d'Ivoire and Ghana	1485	119.3	77.8	124.2	12
Mauritania	5413 (Exp. 2)		38	2.7	2.0	14.4	1 9
Pakistan	4256 (Exp. 6)	Safety net programme and environmental rehabilitation in					2
			350	13.6	7.3	22.7	12
Sri Lanka	5346 (Exp. 3)	Assistance to Sri Lankan internally displaced persons	50	0.01	3.6	5	14
Yemen	5771	Food assistance to Somali refugees	∞	1.6	Ξ	3,3	12
Zambia	5428 (Exp. 2)	Assistance to refugees from Angola and Zaire into Zambia	7	9.0	0.4	2.9	12
Budget increases1	reases			13.3	11.9		
TOTAL			5987	533.9	287.3	418.4	

N.B. Original budgets.

¹ Budget increases approved in 1996 for all additional commitments (including operations approved in 1996)

WFP PORTFOLIO OF ACTIVITIES BY TYPE OF OPERATION, AND BY COUNTRY CATEGORIES AND REGIONS

	GK	Global	9	LDCs	LIFDCs)Cs	Sub-Saharan Africa	haran	South and Fast Asia	uth it Asia	Latin America	nerica	North Africa	ofrica e Fast	Europe	o <u>v</u>
	(mil. \$)	(%)	(mil. \$)	(%)	(mil. \$)	(%)	(mil. \$)	(%)	(mil. \$)	(%)	(mil. \$)	(%)	(mil. \$)	(%)	(mil. \$)	(%)
DEVELOPMENT AGRICULTURAL & RURAL DEVELOPMENT	1054	22	324	94	842	56	249	39	452	75	191	43	160	89		
Land development &	520	7.7	150	21	445	29	95	15	309	52	43	10	73	27		
	193	i 2	49	7	156	2	71	: =	68	15		. 71	25	6		
Community infrastructure	204	10	113	16	163	Ξ	71	=	40	7	74	17	19	7		
	137	7	12	7	78	5	12	7	14	2	29	15	43	16		
HUMAN RESOURCE	890	46	376	54	673	4	384	19	147	25	249	57	Ξ	14		
Vulnerable groups	334	17	118	17	259	17	86	15	110	18	114	26	12	4		
Primary schools	422	22	162	23	303	20	234	37	Ξ	7	112	25	99	24		
	134	7	96	14	Ξ	7	52	∞	26	4	23	5	33	12		
TOTAL DEVELOPMENT	1944	100	700	100	1515	100	633	100	299	100	440	100	27.1	100		
RELIEF NATURAL DISASTERS	113	6	62	∞	84	00	79	6	31	18	4	57				
Sudden natural disasters	42	3	13	-	13		∞	-	31	18	4	57				
Drought, crop failure	71	5	99	7	71	7	71	∞								
MAN-MADE DISASTERS	1199	91	928	92	928	92	9//	16	139	82	4	20	185	100	204	100
Refugee operations	503	38	451	47	451	45	446	52	54	32	3	43	9	n		
Displaced person operations	969	53	425	45	477	47	330	39	85	20	-	4	179	26	204	100
TOTAL RELIEF	1313	100	954	100	1011	100	855	100	170	100	7	100	185	100	204	100
TOTAL WFP ASSISTANCE	3257		1654		2526		1488		692		447		456		204	

(as of 31.12.1996, in million dollars)

N.B. "Portfolio" refers to the total value of all WFP's ongoing projects and operations as approved by its governing body or by the Executive Director under her delegated authority. The portfolio in relief operations cannot easily be compared with the development portfolio since the time frame for most development projects is two to six years, whereas the time frame for a relief operation is normally six to 18 months, with extensions as needed..

TOTAL PLEDGES AND CONTRIBUTIONS ANNOUNCED FOR 1996 BY DONOR

(as of 31 December 1996) (thousand dollars)

	Regular	IRA	IEFR	NFI	PRO	so	Others ¹	Total
Australia	41451		5927		14841		1012	63231
Austria	3750	117	835				72	4774
Bangladesh	1063							1063
Belgium	4783		11475		2239	528	446	19472
Canada	43569	2190	10479		14589		985	71812
EU	42118		93213		57108	3189	1245	196873
China	1100							1100
Colombia	14							14
Costa Rica	8							8
Cuba	875							875
Denmark	33259	1730	10417		5475	1239	944	53064
Egypt	200							200
Finland	6976		4833		3888	200	148	16045
France	2974		897		15139	118	76	19203
Germany	33931	37	30779		28765	2075	448	96036
Ghana	5							5
Greece	150							150
Hungary	58							58
Iceland	8							8
ICRC			1496					1496
India	1785							1785
Indonesia	100							100
Ireland	1719		1175		255			3149
Israel			109					109 34876
Italy	3271	78	15688		15688	150	214	124032
Japan	17500	1215	66888	1000	28506	8710	214	21
Jordan	21							218
Luxembourg			218		150			150
Nepal				22.02	150	3671	987	78804
Netherlands	25967	3015	28062	2245	14858	136	201	539
New Zealand	233		67	50	103	150		4361
NGOs			4311	50	11789	560	480	41535
Norway	18523	3143	4750	2290	285	500	100	831
Others		40	5		203	500		323
Pakistan	323							1
Panama	1							6
Slovak Repul	blic 6							12
Slovenia			12					2440
South Korea	440		2000				11055	13720
Spain	781	3	1880					114
Sri Lanka	114				4257	2474	151	33164
Sweden	14350	3728	8204		7447	3015	66	29961
Switzerland	5787	834	12811		7-1-13			9
Syria	9		15055		9888	941		34434
United Kingo	dom 7469	1069	15067		107012	4348		494980
U.S.A.	84670	2000	296951					
TOTAL	399362	19201	628549	5585	342282	31852	18327	1445159
			· LOfficer	and bilateral	contributions	to WFP-ass	sisted projects	operations

¹ Resource category includes Junior Professional Officer and bilateral contributions to WFP-assisted projects/operations N.B. The figures in this table do not necessarily add to totals because of rounding.

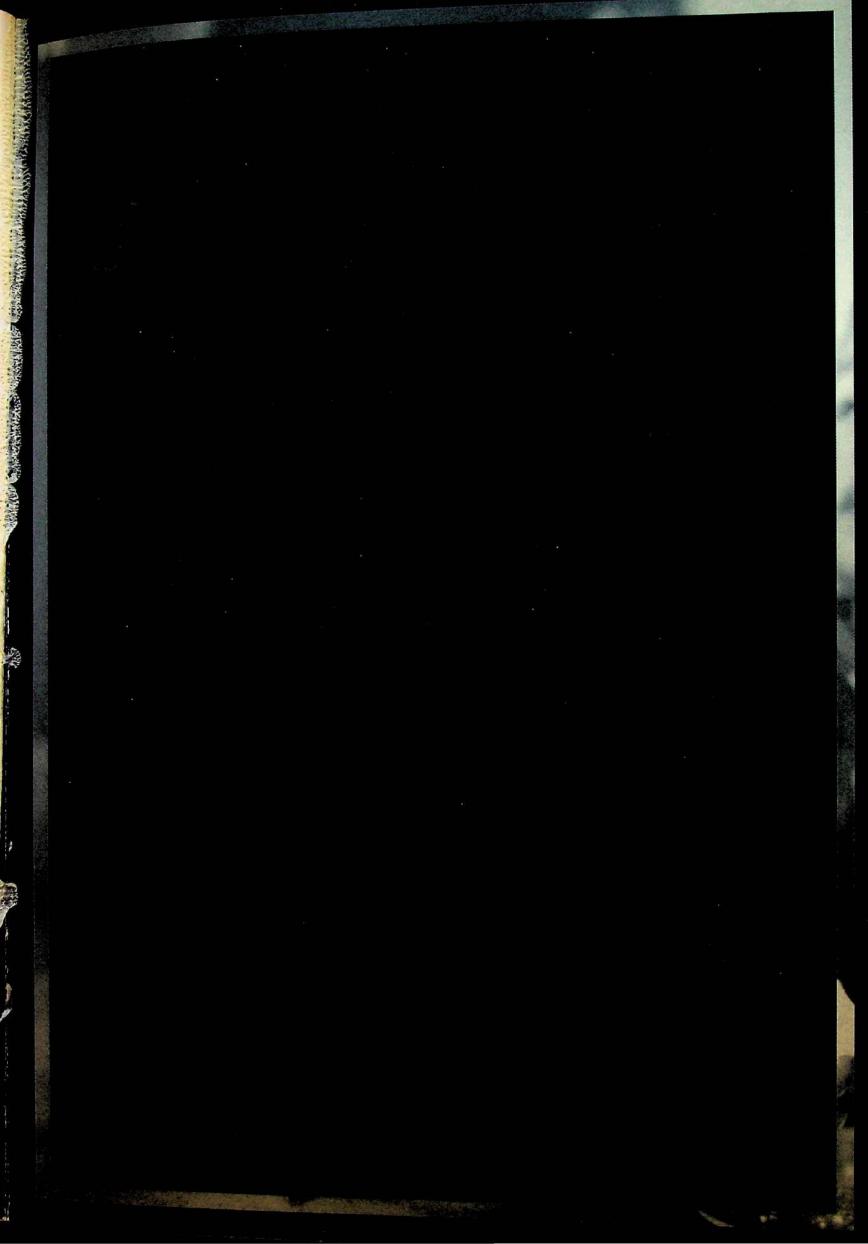
MAJOR DONORS' TO WFP BY TYPE OF PLEDGES OR CONTRIBUTIONS IN 1996

(as of 31 December 1996) (thousand dollars)

	Value	1055	245	1012																						
Others ²																										
ō	Donor	Spain	EU	Australia																						
SO	Value	8710	4348	3671	3189	3015	2474	2075	1239																	
0.1	Donor	Japan	U.S.A.	Netherlands	EU	Switzerland	Sweden	Germany	Denmark																	
NFI	Value	2290	2245	1000																						
Z	Donor	Norway	Netherlands	Japan																						
FR	Value	296951	93213	88899	30779	28062	15688	15067	12811	11475	10479	10417	8204	5927	4833	4750	4311	2000	1880	1496	1175					
IEFR	Donor	U.S.A.	EU	Japan	Germany	Netherlands	Italy	U.K.	Switzerland	Belgium	Canada	Denmark	Sweden	Australia	Finland	Norway	NGOs	South Korea	Spain	ICRC	Ireland					
02	Value	107010	57108	28765	28506	15688	15139	14858	14841	14589	11789	8886	7447	5475	4257	3888										
PRO	Donor	U.S.A.	EU	Germany	Japan	Italy	France	Netherlands	Australia	Canada	Norway	U.K.	Switzerland	Denmark	Sweden	Finland	Belgium									
IRA	Value	3728	3143	3015			1730																			
	Donor	Sweden	Norway	Netherlands	Canada	U.S.A.	Denmark	Japan	U.K.													*				
Regular	Value	84670	43569	42118	41451	33931	33259	25967	18523	17500	14350	7469	9169	2787	4783	3750	3271	2974	1785	1719	1100	1063				
Reg	Donor	U.S.A.	Canada	EU	Australia	Germany	Denmark	Netherlands	Norway	Japan	Sweden	U.K.	Finland	Switzerland	Belgium	Austria	Italy	France	India	Ireland	China	Bangladesh				
Total	Value	494980	196873	124032	96036	78804	71812	63231	53064	41535	34876	34434	33164	29961	19472	19203	16045	13720	4774	4361	3149	2440	1785	1496	1100	1063
	Donor	U.S.A.	EU	Japan	Germany	Netherlands	Canada	Australia	Denmark	Norway	Italy	U.K.	Sweden	Switzerland	Belgium	France	Finland	Spain	Austria	NGOs	Ireland	South Korea	India	ICRC	China	Bangladesh
	1	1	2	3	4	5	9	7	∞	6	10	=	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	52

¹ Listed individually are all donors that pledged or contributed a total of more than one million dollars for each category ² Resource category includes Junior Professional Officer and bilateral contributions to WFP-assisted projects/operations

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