

March 2009

E



منظمة الأغذية  
والزراعة  
للأمم المتحدة

联合国  
粮食及  
农业组织

Food  
and  
Agriculture  
Organization  
of  
the  
United  
Nations

Organisation  
des  
Nations  
Unies  
pour  
l'alimentation  
et  
l'agriculture

Продовольственная и  
сельскохозяйственная  
организация  
Объединенных  
Наций

Organización  
de las  
Naciones  
Unidas  
para la  
Agricultura  
y la  
Alimentación

## DESERT LOCUST CONTROL COMMITTEE

### Thirty-ninth Session

Rome, 10-13 March 2009

### Collaboration between WFP and FAO in Locust Emergencies (Agenda Item 13)

#### Background

As the food aid arm of the United Nations, the World Food Programme's (WFP) mission is to use its resources to meet emergency food needs and provide food aid in support to economic and social development. The Agency also provides the logistics support necessary to get food aid to the right people at the right time, in the right place and at the right cost. Through the Special Operations programme category WFP also engages in activities to rehabilitate or enhance transport infrastructure and it is mandated to provide services to other UN agencies, bilateral donors and NGOs "which are consistent with the purposes of WFP and which complement WFP's operations".

In 2003, WFP was officially mandated to provide air transport services to all UN humanitarian agencies by the UN General Assembly. As such, currently more than 100 aircraft, operated by registered carriers on behalf of WFP Aviation, transport in excess of 300,000 passengers and 200,000 tons of cargo for both WFP and other humanitarian organizations, flying over 80,000 hours.

On 12<sup>th</sup> September 2005, the Inter Agency Standing Committee (IASC) Principals designated WFP as the Logistics Cluster lead agency with primary managerial responsibility and accountability for logistics activities. Clusters are built to fill gaps in the humanitarian response and provide leadership and increased predictability and capacity for that response. While improved coordination is one of the expected outcomes, the real goal of this approach is to improve the overall humanitarian response and help our beneficiaries in a more effective way.



## Logistics – Air Operations and Storage

WFP and FAO entered into a Technical Agreement for Logistics Co-operation in 2003. The specific areas of technical co-operation are the following:

- Planning and Co-ordination – joint participation in inter-agency logistics co-ordination mechanisms, while also making available respective logistics infrastructure
- Customs Clearance – co-ordinated efforts in the area of customs clearance, including the sharing of information for the processing of customs documents.
- Storage – the provision of in-country warehouse storage by WFP to FAO.
- Transport – arrange for the transport of FAO's supplies to designated destinations.
- Operational Support Equipment – the provision of storage for FAO rapid response Operational Support Equipment at WFP regional reserve facilities.

As part of the aforementioned agreement WFP has arranged in the past air transport of pesticides in support to FAO's locust emergencies in several countries, e.g. Afghanistan, Eritrea, Yemen, Malawi, Tanzania and Mozambique.

Under the guise of the existing Technical Agreement, both parties can agree to expand services while also streamlining administrative mechanisms in order to increase operational efficiencies. Two initial areas of WFP expanded support for Locust Emergencies are the Humanitarian Response Depot (HRD) Network and WFP Aviation Services.

The HRD network, comprised of five strategically positioned, identically designed and equipped, centrally managed depots (HRDs) located in UAE (Dubai), Panama (Panama City), Malaysia (Subang), Ghana (Accra) and Italy (Brindisi). The Network has been designed to provide flexible, sustainable, and scalable facilities and services for the rapid deployment of defined emergency items and services for WFP and other humanitarian organizations. The goal of the HRD network is to reduce humanitarian response times, improve efficiency via standardization and commonality of approach and ultimately save lives. Via the HRD network WFP can provide FAO with the following services free of charge in five locations worldwide, thus giving FAO a global storage footprint for locust emergency support equipment:

- Storage of equipment (including pesticides)
- Receipt and inspection of stocks
- Ordinary maintenance
- Real time stock visibility
- Handling within the HRD premises
- Inbound customs clearance

WFP could also provide the following related services at a cost + 4.5% fee:

- Outbound transportation by air and surface
- Repairs, palletisation and refurbishment of second hand equipment
- Stock insurance
- Provision of training centre facilities
- Kitting, repackaging and labelling
- Rapid Response Team (RRT) which accompanies airlift to the field, provides technical assistance for the installation and maintenance of relief items

In addition to the support via land transportation and airlift (airfreight or charter) of both staff and cargo (pesticides, equipment and tools) on short notice, WFP's air Logistical support to locust control operations, could also include the secondment of aviation/logistics specialists. Fuel contracting could be considered, as well as the review of aircraft operators for locust control



operations and the list of approved and qualified operators for locust control operations, already scheduled by WFP Air Safety Unit for 2009.

Enhanced logistics collaboration requires a more systematic knowledge of shared services and their funding mechanisms. In this respect, an open and frequent liaison between FAO and WFP both at HQ and country office levels is crucial to ensure optimum collaboration and effective outcome during locust outbreaks or food insecurity situations of particular concern.

### **Vulnerability Analysis and Mapping**

Vulnerability to food insecurity refers to the likelihood of experiencing future loss of food, which in turn depends on the nature of uncertain events such as Desert Locust invasions in a number of countries, as well as the types of responses to the incidence of these events. A better understanding of vulnerability to food insecurity in Desert Locust areas is needed to create more accurate and dynamic vulnerability maps and framework for early warning. This would facilitate more accurate and relevant targeting of actions to remediate the impact of any crisis. However, to date, relatively little of the recent advances have found their way into practical use of vulnerability information and early warning systems.

One of the mandates of the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) of the United Nations is to provide information on the global Desert Locust developments to all affected countries and interested parties. The Desert Locust Information Service (DLIS) receives locust survey and control reports from the national Locust Control Units of all the affected countries. It analyses them by using a specially-designed geographic information system (GIS). The results of the analysis are summarized in a monthly Bulletin on the Desert Locust situation, and a six-week forecast for each country are provided. FAO distributes the Bulletin by email, fax, and post, and it is made available on the Locust Watch website. When the situation causes concern, alerts and warnings are issued to the countries involved.

WFP on the other hand collects information regarding the food security situation, the dependence of households on agriculture, and household resilience to shocks using several assessment tools including household surveys. WFP also relies on FAO for information on the extent of locust populations, migrations and damage that lay on the basis of the subsequent needs assessment conducted by WFP and partners, e.g. in Mali 2004. Similarly, joint FAO-WFP Crop and Food Supply Missions (CFSAM) are conducted in response to locust damage.

FAO and WFP entered into collaboration to share the wealth of information available in both agencies with the aim to improve the early warning and response to Desert Locust outbreaks in Africa and Asia. First joint steps have been made in using the WFP-VAM vulnerability maps to assess the possible impact of locust threats on the food security of rural communities. It is planned to develop a web-based platform to facilitate exchange of GIS data for further analysis and livelihoods risk assessment.