Afghanistan’s crop and food situation has continued to improve during the past few months. Cereal production is estimated to have increased by 80 percent compared to last year, and grazing land is more verdant thanks to higher rainfall. More Afghans are meeting their basic food needs than before.

Nevertheless, despite these encouraging signs, Afghanistan still bears the scars from years of war, drought, deforestation and topsoil erosion. Large segments of the population, over four million Afghans in rural areas, are still critically vulnerable to food shortages. In addition, the harsh Afghan winter will, once again, cut off remote areas, isolating the population for several months.

Particular efforts are being made to ensure that equipment is available to clear snow and ice from roads, and that food is pre-positioned in remote areas before the harsh winter sets in and more lives and livelihoods are put at risk.

The Government, in close partnership with the World Food Programme, and other United Nations agencies and non-governmental organisations will continue to bring food aid where it is needed.

WFP remains firmly committed to providing support to the Afghan people, as their nation moves from emergency towards recovery.
Significant Events

THIRD QUARTER 2002

July

Haji Qadir, Vice President and Minister of Public Works, was assassinated on 6 July in Kabul.

The official UN estimates of Afghan returnees in 2002 were revised upwards to two million from 800,000. WFP will provide food aid for up to 1.5 million returnees.

WFP's Countrywide Food Security Assessment was launched on 3 July.

August

An explosion at a local NGO in Jalal Abad on 9 August injured 86 individuals and caused the deaths of 26, including women and children.

Ericsson's Mobile Telephone System Support to Government Ministries and the assistance community in Afghanistan terminated on 15 August.

WFP and FAO officially released a joint report on the Crop and Food Supply Assessment Mission on 18 August.

WFP finalized the first ever Pastoralist Vulnerability Study on the Kuchi nomads of Afghanistan.

Afghanistan observed the 18 August as a National Holiday commemorating its independence from British rule.

September

On 5 September, two explosive devices were detonated outside the Ministry of Information and Culture in the Kabul city centre. The bombs killed 21 civilians and injured more than 150.

On the same day, an assassination attempt was made on President Karzai in the city of Kandahar. The assassin was shot dead by President Karzai's security guards.

The first anniversary of the assassination of Ahmad Shah Massoud was commemorated as a national holiday on 9 September.
Political Environment

It has been almost one year since the overthrow of the Taliban and the instauration of a legitimate Government in Afghanistan. During that year, Afghanistan has made considerable political progress, with the appointment of President Karzai and the formation of a cabinet.

The first tangible signs of reconstruction are now evident with schoolchildren returning to their schools and women being allowed out of their homes and, in some cases, being able to return to work. Over 1.7 million refugees, mainly from Pakistan, have poured back across the border to resettle in their abandoned homes with the assistance of the World Food Programme and the UN High Commission for Refugees. Despite these positive trends, the sheer number of people is putting a tremendous strain on an already burdened infrastructure.

Furthermore, and in parallel to the success of the Government, there are still grave concerns over security highlighted by the recent assassination attempt on President Karzai and the detonation of powerful bombs in Kabul in recent weeks.

The Government’s National Development Framework will now take the country forward into 2003 and ensure the structured and supported rebuilding of the country. Priorities will be collectively formed and implemented with the support of the international community and civil society. WFP is highly supportive of this framework and will continue to provide its full commitment to assist the Government and the people of Afghanistan.

Security Review

The security situation in Afghanistan continued to be volatile and marked by violence during the third quarter of the year. The assassination of Vice President Qadir, an assassination attempt on President Karzai, and the increased incidence of civilian-targeted bombings have been of particular grave concern to the security of the local populations, the humanitarian community, as well as ISAF and the Coalition Forces. In the capital, Kabul, sporadic outbreaks of violence marred the peace. On 6 July, Vice President Haji Qadir was assassinated outside the Ministry of Public Works. This was closely followed by a series of bombings, which killed or injured citizens, and caused considerable damage in commercial and residential areas. On 25 August, an explosion outside a UN residence compound injured one guard; on 5 September, two car bombs in the center of Kabul killed twenty-one people and injured an estimated 150 bystanders; on 28 September, an explosion outside an apartment block injured four people and caused extensive damage to the building.

In the Northern provinces, the stalemate between the Jumbesh and the Jamiat factions was ongoing with minor factional clashes in Shibghian and Sari Pul.

In the Eastern provinces, the Coalition Forces continued to conduct search and destroy operations against Taliban and Al Qaeda remnants. Kunar province was declared a high risk zone, and all UN operations in the area were suspended. Rocket attacks in and around Jalal Abad posed a major threat. An explosion at the office compound of a local NGO on 9 August injured 86 individuals and caused the deaths of 26, including women and children. On 17 September, two rockets exploded in the UNICEF compound, causing minor damage to the perimeter wall and guard house. In Khost, fighting broke out between Governor Taniwall’s troops and the forces of the renegade commander Pacha Khan, causing the shut-down of UN operations; when Pacha Khan’s forces retreated to the border areas, Khost was reopened for UN operations.

In the Southern provinces, carjackings and banditry remained a general concern. In Kandahar on 5 September, an assassination attempt was made on President Karzai. Although he escaped injury, the Governor of Kandahar, who was traveling with him, suffered injuries but has since recovered.

While the Western provinces were generally calm, the stand-off between the forces of Ismail Khan and Gul Aga over the Shindand area remained unresolved.
The following assessments were undertaken or completed during the third quarter of 2002:

- FAO/WFP Crop and Food Supply Assessment Mission (CFSAM);
- Annual Countrywide Survey of Vulnerability Analysis and Mapping (VAM);
- Pastoralist Vulnerability Study (Kuchis);
- Framework for an Urban Vulnerability Study; and
- Continued development of a nationwide food security and nutrition surveillance system under the supervision of the newly established Livelihoods and Vulnerability Analysis Unit (LVAU) at the Ministry of Rural Rehabilitation and Development (MRRD).

**Drought and Food Security Update**

The FAO/WFP Crop and Food Supply Assessment Mission released its report on 18 August, estimating that the national cereal production had improved by over 80 percent in comparison to last year, and that pasture had improved as a result of increased precipitation. These findings were confirmed by the preliminary results of the VAM countrywide assessment, which showed considerable improvement in food production, particularly in the North and the West of the country.

Despite these encouraging signs of recovery, there still remain large numbers of vulnerable people who have been affected by the years of conflict and prolonged drought. Food insecurity persists, particularly in areas of very low or no agricultural production.

In the Central Highlands, food production increased from the previous year, but a significant level of food insecurity remains. The provinces of Bamyan and Wardak are exceptions in that they have experienced very little improvement and the food crisis in these areas has become heightened.

The situation in the Northern region has generally improved, although communities facing food deficits still exist, particularly in Sari Pul province.

In the Northeastern part of the country, there is a mix of food surplus and food deficit districts, with certain communities and areas at both the district and sub-district level facing acute levels of food insecurity.

The main areas of concern include the Eastern and Southern provinces, where the drought continues to have a negative impact on food security and livelihoods. Minimal rainfall and a depleted water table have resulted in a water shortage crisis in these provinces.

The Western region, particularly Ghor, Faryab, and Farah provinces, continues to experience high levels of food insecurity, despite some improvement in food production from last year.

Although there is a trend towards recovery and an overall improvement in production, four years of drought have had a severe impact on the rural population, resulting in the depletion of livestock and assets, accumulation of debt, and generally undermining the productive capacity of entire communities. Therefore, while there is greater food availability this year, a considerable portion of the population will be unable to access a sufficient quantity of food to meet basic requirements.

According to the preliminary VAM findings, approximately four million people in the rural areas will face a food deficit during the next twelve months starting from October 2002. This figure does not include the urban vulnerable, returnees and internally displaced persons.

Of note, an assessment of Kuchi nomadic pastoralists was completed during the reporting period. The assessment identified four categories of vulnerable Kuchis, who altogether comprise one of the largest groups adversely affected by the years of drought, having lost 60-100 percent of their livestock. The study identified possible intervention strategies to assist these communities, and helped immediately direct WFP assistance to Kuchi communities in several districts of Ghazni and Zabul provinces.

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1 Based on the latest population figures released by Afghanistan Information Management Systems (AIMS).
Afghanistan
Preliminary Results of the VAM Countrywide Vulnerability Survey
23-09-2002
**Actual Food Distribution**

The original food distribution plan was revised at the beginning of the third quarter, to allow for food to be distributed only under ongoing projects due to pipeline constraints. Only a very limited number of new projects were started to address critical food needs. The amount of food delivered to implementing partners was approximately 128,000 MT, with actual distribution to over 4.1 million beneficiaries across the country.

The emphasis of food distribution during the third quarter was shifted towards long-term recovery of communities, from immediate relief to drought-affected populations during the second quarter. As a result, the free food distribution (FFD) programme was drastically reduced. Instead, community-based development programmes such as food for asset creation (FoodAC) and food for work (FFW) were used to provide communities with employment opportunities through the creation or rehabilitation of community assets. Of the total food resourced during the third quarter, 56,000 MT or 43 percent were used for the above FoodAC and FFW activities, compared to 25 percent during the second quarter.

WFP continued to support vulnerable populations such as returning refugees and internally displaced persons (IDPs) in camps, with 19,800 MT for their relief and resettlement. Also 15,800 MT of food was released under enhanced drought relief activities.

Urban vulnerable populations in Kabul, Mazar-i-Sharif and Kandahar were assisted through WFP-supported bakeries. During the reporting period, some 187,500 beneficiaries received daily ration of bread through 116 bakeries in the above urban centres, operated by 1,100 bakers. Approximately 4,500 MT of wheat and wheat flour were dispatched to these bakeries.

WFP’s food assistance continued to encourage the attendance of school-aged children through on-site school feeding and take-home rations, bringing the total number of students to approximately 256,000 in 344 primary schools at the end of the third quarter. A total of 4,500 MT of food was distributed to the above students as well as teachers, teacher assistants and non-formal education trainers and trainees during the quarter.

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*Implementing partners of WFP projects are usually other UN agencies, NGOs and the Government. Please see the section on “Implementing Partners,” for further information.*
WFP supported civil servants with 15,500 MT of food commodities in the form of salary supplements during the third quarter, bringing the total number of beneficiaries to 251,400 since April 2002.

**Planned Food Distribution Strategy**

In the months of October to December 2002, WFP will aim to meet the needs of communities isolated by the severe winter through pre-positioning of food supplies. Sufficient resources are either in-country or are expected to arrive in October, to cover these winter needs.

**October - December 2002:** During this period, efforts will be focused on the continuation of current programmes, including food for work, food for asset creation (distribution of food against ration coupons issued during the pre-harvest and harvest periods), repatriation of refugees and IDPs, school feeding and supplementary feeding.

**January - March 2003:** A planned budget revision will be made to the current Emergency Operation (EMOP), enabling its extension through March 2003. During the extension period, winter assistance will continue, with a focus on the expansion of school feeding and the transition to recovery activities (including food for work and food for training). Relief support, such as food for asset creation, will be completed. Due to the shortfall, however, no currently available or anticipated resources could support the extended period. It is expected that a Protracted Relief and Recovery Operation (PRRO) will follow the completion of the EMOP.
During the third quarter, 131,630 MT of food commodities (64 percent of which are cereals) arrived at the Port of Karachi and regional hubs in Pakistan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan and Turkmenistan. Of this quantity, some 131,500 MT were dispatched to internal locations in Afghanistan. As of September, WFP’s food stocks in Afghanistan stood at 68,000 MT (35 percent of which were cereals).

WFP’s current Emergency Operation (EMOP) 10155.0 aims to deliver 543,837 MT of food to Afghanistan at a total cost of US$285 million from April through December 2002. By the end of the third quarter, 21 donors had responded to the appeal for the current operation, and their pledges, combined with carry-over resources, covered 78 percent of the total cash and 82 percent of the total food requirements.

The EMOP is not fully resourced, and therefore additional donations are required to cover the requirements for the remaining period of October through December 2002 and also to cover the period of January through March 2003. Yet, WFP will be able to meet the winter needs of the people in inaccessible, food insecure areas, from its current stocks and the expected cereal arrivals in late September and early October. Breaks in the cereal pipeline are expected from October onwards, with no cereals available after December 2002. Subject to the results of the Countrywide Vulnerability Analysis and Mapping (VAM) Survey to be finalized in October, food requirements will be reviewed and revised for the remaining months of the EMOP.

Concurrently with the above EMOP, WFP is providing common services (including passenger aircraft service and UN Joint Logistics coordination) for humanitarian agencies working in Afghanistan through its Special Operation, 10163.0, from April through December 2002. This Special Operation has been funded by six donors, with 78 percent of its total requirement of US$10,053,152 funded.

At the end of the third quarter, shortfalls in the Emergency Operation and the Special Operation stood at 22 percent of cash requirements for each. These shortfalls may lead to the postponement or cancellation of some of the recovery programmes in order to be able to respond to urgent winterisation needs.

Planned distribution until March 2003

Note: The planned distribution will be adjusted, in accordance with the results of the WFP Vulnerability Assessment. Requirements for October and November 2002 include pre-positioning of food for the winter period. Planned distributions do not include distribution of biscuits.
### Resource Update as of 30 September 2002

#### Emergency Operation 10155.0

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**Donations to Date:** 179,884,881

**Requirements:** 204,985,542

#### CEREALS: Planned Distribution and Estimated Resources Availability

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#### CEREALS: Shortfall

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Published: July-September 2002
**Programme Activities**

**Review of Programme Activities**

Under Emergency Operation 10155.0, WFP continued to implement a variety of programme activities targeting groups of Afghans in need of food assistance. The rural settled populations, especially those affected by the drought, were given opportunities to participate in the food for asset creation (FoodAC) and the food for work (FFW) programmes. The bakery programme specifically targeted urban vulnerable, while food aid for the severely malnourished was the focus of supplementary feeding activities.

WFP continued its assistance to civil servants through a food ration salary supplement. Due to the continued and unprecedented number of returning refugees, WFP and UNHCR revised the Letter of Agreement three times to adjust for more beneficiaries. WFP assisted the internally displaced persons (IDPs) in camps, and also encouraged them to return to their places of origin, whenever possible. The food for education (FFE) programme expanded dramatically, reaching children in schools (through on-site feeding), families of girl students (through take-home rations) and adults (through non-formal education).

**Emergency Drought Relief**

Between July and September, WFP reached over two million people severely affected by drought through food for asset creation (FoodAC) and free food distribution (FFD) programmes, in collaboration with the implementing partners, including OXFAM, Islamic Relief - UK (IR-UK), Save the Children - USA (SC-US), Action Contre la Faim (ACF) and CONCERN, among others. As it was the harvest period, WFP distributed coupons to beneficiaries for work done, to be redeemed for food during the winter season. Ten percent of the community who could not work under food for asset creation still received food through free food distribution.

**Urban Vulnerable Bakery Projects**

WFP’s flagship women’s bakery programme operates in the three cities of Kabul, Mazari Sharif and Kandahar. It provides subsidized bread to urban vulnerable families, and offers an income generating activity to widows, in collaboration with women’s committees.

In Kabul, the total number of beneficiary households increased by six percent to 8,833, reaching some 44,200 people through 24 bakeries. During the quarter, WFP organized tours for numerous donors and other visitors to observe the operation of these bakeries in the Kabul area, to facilitate better understanding of the impact of WFP’s food assistance.

In Mazari Sharif, WFP’s assistance reached 20,000 households, reaching 120,000 people through 80 bakeries, during the third quarter. A survey of 60,000 households was conducted, to ensure that the most vulnerable groups were being reached.

The bakery programme has also been set up in Kandahar. Currently there are twelve bakeries operating in Kandahar, targeting more than 2,400 households or 14,500 beneficiaries.
Supplementary, Therapeutic and Institutional Feeding

Through supplementary, therapeutic and institutional feeding activities, WFP food serves to supplement the diet of malnourished children and expectant/nursing mothers, to provide incentives to patients for the completion of treatment for tuberculosis and leprosy, and to provide limited support to the carers of patients in treatment centers and hospitals.

To these vulnerable groups, WFP provides a mixed ration of wheat flour, CSB or WSB, sugar, oil and pulses through supplementary feeding centres run by WFP’s implementing partners, as well as through hospitals, outpatient clinics and orphanages. From July through September, a total of 920 MT of mixed commodities was dispatched to WFP’s implementing partners, for distribution to 193,200 beneficiaries.

Civil Servants Salary Supplement

The Civil Service of Afghanistan was in a critical state when the Afghan Interim Administration (AIA) came into authority in December 2001. Both the AIA and UN agencies acknowledged that urgent assistance was necessary for the Civil Service to function and that control of the Civil Service should be centralized with the authorities in Kabul. The UN Special Representative of the Secretary General requested UNDP to provide support for a centralized payroll and salary, and WFP to provide a salary supplement in the form of food rations.

This scheme will not be continued, as it was a temporary programme to respond to the urgent needs of the Government for enhanced stability, by providing support to its staff. It is likely that teachers will continue to receive food rations as part of the food for education (FFE) programme, upon endorsement by the Government.

The programme has been managed by the Department of Rations (DoR) in the Ministry of Commerce. WFP releases food to the DoR, according to the most recent lists of registered civil servants obtained from the Ministry of Finance. The ration provided includes 12.5 kg of pulses and five litres (approximately 4.5 kg) of vegetable oil.

The civil servants salary supplement programme will be reviewed by USAID. Outcomes of the review will serve all the stakeholders as a reference of lessons learned and also as guiding tools for similar future activities.

3 After the Loya Jirga was convened in June 2002, the Afghan Interim Administration was renamed the Government of the Interim Transitional State of Afghanistan.
Child Brides in Northern Afghanistan

A coping strategy halted by WFP food aid

By Catherine Dunnion, GOAL Ireland
July 2002

I began my trip in the and district of Mingalay in Juninagh province of northern Afghanistan, to supervise a group of monitors carrying out some surveys on the impact of WFP food aid. GOAL, an Irish NGO, has been a WFP implementing partner since September 2001.

One afternoon, while visiting with my female monitors, I learned that many families in the district had sold their daughters as young as ten or eleven years into early marriages. This set off the alarm bells. A few months earlier, I had heard of a few similar cases down in the districts of Darazab and Khosjapa, and now the monitors picked up information from here.

While continuing my trip down to Darazab and Khosjapa, I interviewed many different groups of people: women, families, farmers, mullahs (Islamic religious leaders) and local elders. In one village, people confirmed that the recent drought was the worst in their living memory. As one of the coping strategies, at least three girls between the ages of eight and twelve had been sold the previous year, in exchange for $300--$500.

All insisted that this had been happening only over the recent years of drought. Two mothers admitted to having exchanged their nine- and eleven-year-old daughters during the drought years. Families turned to such drastic measures in desperation and total desperation. Sometimes it is the husband-to-be, a middleman or an agent, who comes and seeks a bride. Another mother and her disabled husband sold their eight-year-old daughter, when the family was coming only bread and tea, in exchange for $300.

I met the girl bride. She is ten now, and very small, with plump cheeks. Her wide, large eyes were lost, and she had no clue about what was going on. All the money has gone now, and her parents’ family is hungry and desperate again.

A match at a mosque was saying it’s illegal to sell young daughters according to the Koran. Families would step it if they only had food.

Interviewees also expressed how harmful it was for all involved. They also claimed that over the past six months of WFP food distributions, no further news of girl brides had been heard. It showed that WFP food aid had had a positive impact on the reduction or even elimination of such drastic coping practices. It further impressed me when they said that they wanted a girls’ school, having realized the value of education for girls.

Since writing this, my staff have reported to me further examples of girl brides in other districts, and a group of monitors with medical background discovered a nine-year-old pregnant girl bride.

This is the end of the story, but is it the end of such drastic coping measures?
Programme Activities

Repatriation

Afghans continue to return home at an unprecedented rate. The UNHCR/WFP repatriation programme started on 1 March 2002, and as of 30 September, nearly 1.7 million returnees had been assisted through the programme. More than 600,000 returnees or 35 percent were assisted during the first two months of the third quarter.

To accommodate the increased need for assistance, WFP and UNHCR signed and subsequently revised a Letter of Agreement (LoA) as follows:

- February 2002: allocation of 15,000 MT of food for 500,000 returnees
- May 2002: 1st revision, food allocation increased to 30,000 MT for one million returnees
- July 2002: 2nd revision, food allocation further increased to 42,000 MT for 1.5 million returnees
- September 2002: 3rd revision, food package reduced to 50 kg, with no ceiling on the number of beneficiaries and the total quantity of wheat distributed effective from 15 October until the end of 2002.

As of the end of September, WFP had provided more than 47,000 MT of food to returnees through UNHCR and the International Organization for Migration (IOM), exceeding by 5,000 MT the food allocation revised in July. Outstanding commitments reached more than 14,000 MT of food. During the remainder of 2002, 200,000 refugees are still expected to return to the country.

The Ministry of Refugees and Repatriation and UNHCR estimated that approximately 550,000 refugees/IDP returnees would be exposed to hardship during the winter. A joint survey is under way to determine their eligibility for additional support during the winter. In addition to food, assistance will concentrate on the following non-food items: winter tents, blankets, plastic sheeting, stoves and heating fuel. UNHCR will ensure that adequate quantities of non-food items are available.

Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs)

During the third quarter, WFP has provided food assistance to 260,700 IDPs located in Mazari Sharif (64,000), Fayz abad (28,000), Jalal Abad (3,700), Kandahar (80,000) and Hirat (85,000). The Government and UN agencies (UNHCR, IOM and WFP) have been in discussions regarding a strategy to phase out IDP camps and to encourage IDPs to return to their places of origin. Four IDP camps (Sari Pul and Saki in Mazari Sharif, and Minaret I and Minaret II in Hirat) were closed, in the third quarter.
Food for Work (FFW)

The FFW programme reached 283,000 beneficiaries during the third quarter. As of the end of September, over 5,600 MT of food had been confirmed dispatched to WFP’s implementing partners, including Shelter Now International (SNI), GOAL, Norwegian Church Aid (NAC) and MADERA, among others. The FFW programme, along with the food for asset creation (FoodAC) programme, has achieved tangible results in improving and developing infrastructure during the third quarter, including:

- Rehabilitation of 760 km of roads;
- Restoration of 977 km of irrigation canals;
- Excavation of 421 wells;
- Restoration of 930 karez (i.e. underground water channels);
- Establishment of 1.2 hectares of tree nurseries;
- Rehabilitation of 69 km of springs for drinking and agricultural water;
- Redigging of 65 km of drainages; and
- Rehabilitation of other infrastructure facilities, including bridges, culverts and water reservoirs.

Food for Seed (FFS)

From July to September, 3,840 MT of wheat were released to FAO in support of the food for seed (FFS) programme, according to the preliminary figures.
Food for Education (FFE)

One of the major initiatives of the government of the Islamic Transitional State of Afghanistan is the ambitious “back to school” programme. In response to this, the Ministry of Education, with the support of WFP, has established the food for education (FFE) programme. The FFE programme has five components: (i) food for children; (ii) food for teachers; (iii) food for teacher training; (iv) food for non-formal education and vocational training; and (v) food for work.

The current number of schoolchildren benefiting from the FFE programme is just over 250,000. The limited food basket (i.e. only nan bread), high cost of women’s bakeries, poor school infrastructure and facilities, limited capacity of WFP’s implementing partners, and pipeline constraints have all had a negative impact on WFP’s ability to reach the original target of one million schoolchildren. However, the anticipated arrival of nearly 10,000 MT of fortified biscuits donated by the Government of India in November has allowed WFP to maintain its target of the original one million students.

FFE Programme Approach

Currently, WFP is taking two programme approaches, including take-home rations and on-site feeding, to address the impact of short-term hunger on learning, school performance, enrolment, attendance and dropout rates as well as community participation. Where there is a significant gender gap, WFP provides oil to girl students in addition to the regular take-home ration or on-site feeding.

Activities under the FFE programme include the following:

- **Food for Children: To help alleviate short-term hunger, encourage enrolment, stabilize attendance and improve school performance.** WFP currently supports 255,571 students (of which 89,495 are girls) in 344 primary schools. Each student receives a daily ration (a small loaf of bread as a mid-morning snack) or a take-home ration (in Badakhshan province only). An additional incentive of four litres of oil per month is given to girl students to encourage their school attendance.

- **Food for Teachers: To encourage teachers’ full attendance and support teachers’ status and confidence.** Teachers were provided with a food ration as a salary supplement under the civil servants scheme.

It is likely that teachers will continue to receive food rations, upon endorsement by the government.

- **Food for Teacher Training: To support the teachers attending refresher and up-grading courses.** The programme will start once the Ministry of Education has developed a national strategy and teacher-training curriculum.

- **Food for Non-Formal Education/Vocational Training: To encourage enrolment in courses providing basic literacy, health education and vocational training, particularly for women.** 5,470 women are currently gaining vocational skills in carpet weaving, embroidery and tailoring in addition to numeracy and literacy skills and health education. In Kabul, 780 Afghan ex-combatants are participating in training on Electrical Engineering.
• **Food for Work:** To build new schools and rehabilitate existing schools. To date, WFP has provided assistance to the construction or rehabilitation of 66 schools in coordinated efforts with UNICEF, IOM, USAID, People In Need Foundation (PINF), Central Afghanistan Welfare Committee (CAWC) and Afghanistan Rehabilitation and Development Center (ARDC), among others. A technical consultant has been hired for three months to provide guidance and standards on school construction. The consultant will assist WFP's Food for Education Unit in preparing a school construction and rehabilitation project proposal for funding under the Japanese Trust Fund.

**UNICEF, implementing partners, WFP Country Office and Area Offices in Afghanistan.**

• **Ministry of Education Collaboration:** WFP is supporting the Ministry’s capacity building, for better coordination and implementation of the FFE programme in a cost-effective manner. The FFE programme must be well integrated into the National Development Framework, for its sustainable development and adequate funding from donors.

**FFE Programme Highlights**

• **Deworming:** WFP convened a deworming coordination meeting on 24 September, with the participation from the Ministry of Education, Ministry of Public Health, UNICEF and WHO. The Food for Education Unit at WFP will serve as the support secretariat to the Ministries in the coming weeks. A baseline survey will be carried out under the aegis of WHO in November, with deworming programme implementation scheduled to start in early 2003, in schools where WFP has school feeding activities.

• **ARGOS:** Afghanistan was selected as one of the eight countries to carry out the pilot test of the ARGOS school satellite monitoring device in the coming months. The ARGOS device is a solid, climate and shock-resistant box with a screen and a keypad interface through which data can be transmitted via satellite to a central computer. Schoolteachers will enter monitoring data, such as the quantity of food commodities received, the number of students absent, and food rations distributed on a monthly basis. Twelve ARGOS devices will be delivered to Kabul by November. The pilot test will concentrate on technical issues (including satellite transmission), user-friendliness and resistance to harsh climatic conditions.

• **Baseline:** By the end of September, school feeding baseline enumerators had visited more than 300 schools, and the data input had progressed smoothly. To facilitate the gradual transfer of the complete data management to the WFP Country Office in Afghanistan and eventually to the Ministry of Education, a school feeding database software training workshop was conducted from 26 to 28 September in Kabul. A training mission from Rome explained the functions of the database and its survey potential to the participants in the training which included staff from the Ministry of Education.
DONKEY HIGHWAY

Mujohed and Mirafghan are two young brothers who live in a remote, mountainous village within the Panjshir Valley. They often help their father, Merdel, to transport food and goods to and from the nearby market town.

The journey is not without perils. The problem isn’t mines or bandits, as in some other parts of Afghanistan; the danger is the road itself. Donkeys laden with goods for the market have been lost down the steep mountainside. People have fallen into the gorges that run along the rocky path. On one occasion, a pregnant woman seeking medical assistance was unable to make it through the difficult trail and gave birth along the way.

With the help of Amo Rehabilitation and Development Agency (ARDA), an Afghan NGO, and some WFP Food for Work support, the 25 kilometers of road connecting the village of Dashtak to the central artery of the Panjshir Valley is being slowly but surely reconstructed.

The men of Dashtak contribute the labor, knowing that the next person in need may be one of their own. Thanks to the members of their very own community, who empowered themselves with hard work and solidarity, Mujohed and Mirafghan are already able to make their regular journey to town quicker and with less risk. With their hands and “some dynamite here and there, the trail is becoming a donkey highway,” they say with a laugh.

Through Food for Work, WFP will help the fathers of the community build a classroom for the girls. Under Food for Education, all students, boys and girls, will receive a loaf of bread for lunch. Nearly 190,000 boys and girls are now participating in the programme.
Government Collaboration

During the third quarter, after discussions with the Government, donors and other humanitarian organizations, food aid - as one response to vulnerability - was integrated into the Rural Livelihoods Programme sector.

The Government is now in the process of establishing a comprehensive National Policy for Protecting Lives and Livelihoods. An institutional framework to deal with livelihood protection has been proposed and would include an Inter-Ministerial Commission for Livelihood Protection, with a Livelihoods and Vulnerability Analysis Unit housed within the Ministry of Rural Rehabilitation and Development (MRRD). It is further proposed that MRRD provide coordination of Ministries and decentralized government structures, international agencies, NGOs and communities. A Vulnerability Working Group will be established as a mechanism for consultations with international agencies and NGOs.

Within this framework, the comparative advantage and role of food in the reconstruction of Afghanistan will be further determined, including development of a rationale when food, cash or a combination would be appropriate.

On 27 August, WFP hosted a Food Aid Forum. Future Food Aid Forums will be co-chaired by the MRRD as well as WFP.

PRRO Preparation

Upon conclusion of EMOP 10155.0 in March 2002, a Protracted Relief and Recovery Operation (PRRO) will follow. In preparation of the PRRO, extensive consultations, through working groups, have been held with the Government, donors and other partners to determine the role of food aid and its comparative advantage.

On 25 September, the MRRD and WFP co-hosted a meeting of Government Ministries, donors, UN agencies and NGOs as a stakeholder review on the role of food aid in the recovery of Afghanistan.

The MRRD emphasizes that a food aid policy must ensure that:

- all protection interventions are rights-based and people-centered, addressing the needs commonly perceived by vulnerable Afghans;
- a balance is struck between different interventions, such as food and cash, and is appropriate to different vulnerabilities;
- assessment capacity and resources are properly managed to guarantee adequate responses to the needs;
- all stakeholders work together in planning, implementation and impact assessment; and
- the Government determines food policy, with advice from its partners, including the UN, donors, and NGOs.

Capacity Development

Several capacity development projects were developed during the reporting period. Among the initiatives is the secondment of a total of 15 WFP staff to the MRRD and Ministry of Education (MOE). Also for the MRRD, WFP is conducting capacity building trainings, recruiting an English teacher and providing basic office equipment and materials. To the Ministries of Agriculture and Public Health, WFP is providing technical assistance in project implementation. Additionally planned is the rehabilitation or refurbishment of warehouses for the Ministry of Urban Reconstruction and the Kabul Municipality.

Implementing Partners

Between July and September 2002, WFP worked in close collaboration with a total of 166 implementing partners, including Government Ministries, UN agencies, NGOs and shuras (traditional community councils). 132 or nearly 80% were national Afghan partners and the remaining 34 (20%) were international. With their indispensable support, WFP was able to distribute 128,041 MT of food to some 4.1 million children, women and men throughout nearly every province of Afghanistan.

WFP implementing partners were equally invaluable in carrying out the 2002 VAM Countrywide survey. With the cooperation of 22 NGOs as well as the Ministries of Agriculture (MOA) and MRRD, WFP was able to conduct its third annual survey of food security in rural settled communities throughout every district of Afghanistan.
During the third quarter, Logistics moved 131,488 MT of food commodities to External Logistics Hubs outside Afghanistan and from these hubs to Extended Delivery Points (EDPs) inside Afghanistan. WFP's logistics network to support food shipments is currently composed of four trans-shipment warehouses outside Afghanistan, five in-country logistics area offices and two logistics sub-offices with corresponding warehouses.

Bottlenecks at Spin Boldak, a key trans-shipment point for Hirat and Kandahar, have been fully addressed and the new system can now support an off-take capacity of 2,000 MT per day.

In support of the winterisation programme, snow-removing equipment is being prepared to ensure that key roads will be accessible during the winter months. Food will be trans-shipped from Kabul to Mazari Sharif and Fayz Abad in order to ensure that stocks are available in remote areas that will be cut off by snow and ice.

An assessment to evaluate the viability of transporting food commodities via Kunduz has been completed, and the route has been found suitable for that purpose. It is envisaged that this corridor would not only be cost-effective, as compared to Tajikistan route, but would also be time-saving as well.

The Logistics Unit at Country Office has now been established under the supervision of an Afghanistan Logistics Coordinator. The Unit will handle all in-country logistics activities and issues from Kabul Country Office.
Monitoring and Evaluation

From July through September, 1,018 monitoring visits were conducted countrywide out of 1,233 planned (83 percent). Some visits were postponed due to security concerns, e.g. in the provinces of Paktika, Paktya and Khost.

During the period, 642 on-going projects were monitored in more than 321 districts. Some projects were visited more than once. 111 national and international WFP programme staff were involved in the spot check visits, spending 1,082 working days in the field. 9,741 food recipients were interviewed during the monitoring visits, and 64,831 MT of food monitored.

97 percent of the beneficiaries contacted were aware of the ration to which they were entitled, and all the interviewed beneficiaries reported that they received their full entitlements. Monitoring reports also revealed that just ten percent of food for seed (FFS) food rations have been sold or exchanged in the local markets.

During the third quarter, the monitoring database became operational in all Area Offices. The Country Office continued to streamline the monitoring system, for enhanced reporting of monitoring results.

On the job training continued during the period. The Unit participated in the Standardized Monitoring and Assessment in Relief and Transition (SMART) workshop held in Washington in July 2002, and attended training on a Management Information System for Monitoring and Evaluation, organized by Overseas Development Group, University of East Anglia (United Kingdom) in September 2002. Enhanced capacity of the Unit through the training will contribute to better monitoring of the impact of WFP food assistance, and facilitate results-based management of WFP programme activities.
Swiss Federation for Mine Action (FSD)

Mines remain a significant obstacle to the recovery and development efforts of the people and Government of Afghanistan, and the assistance community. Funded by WFP’s Special Operation 10130.0, the Swiss Federation for Mine Action (FSD) works toward eliminating the threat of explosive devices, thus safeguarding commercial and assistance operations, as well as the health and wellbeing of communities at risk.

Since deployment in December 2001, FSD has destroyed a total of 110,958 items, including anti-personnel mines, anti-tank mines, unexploded ordnance and small arms ammunition. During the third quarter, FSD located and destroyed 84,185 explosive devices, a tremendous increase from the previous quarter.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Explosive Device</th>
<th>April - June '02</th>
<th>July - Sep. '02</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Anti-Personnel Mines</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>1,458</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Anti-Tank Mines</td>
<td>21</td>
<td>1,028</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Unexploded Ordnance</td>
<td>576</td>
<td>9,582</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Small Arms Ammunition</td>
<td>8,000</td>
<td>72,117</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>TOTAL</strong></td>
<td><strong>8,605</strong></td>
<td><strong>84,185</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

FSD was able to step up operations during the third quarter thanks to the arrival of new equipment in July, including six new vehicles and additional mine detectors. FSD teams are based in Mazari Sharif (4), Kandahar (3), Bamiyan (2), and Hirat (1), with their headquarters in Kabul.

One of FSD’s main accomplishments for the period was clearance of the Yakawlang road in Bamiyan, facilitating the winterisation plan spearheaded by the Government of Afghanistan. In preparation for the challenges of winter, particularly in isolated areas such as Bamiyan, WFP will thus be able to pre-position food stocks for vulnerable Afghan communities.

For the duration of FSD’s mandate under Special Operation 10130.0, which concludes on 31 December, the focus will remain on road clearances in other critical areas before the onset of winter.
Information Communications Technology (ICT)

To address the lack of telecommunications capacity in Afghanistan, particularly after the events following 11 September, Special Operation 10130.0 funded the reinstallion and development of ICT infrastructure. In the previous quarter, ICT capacity at all bases in Afghanistan had been reinstated to the pre-September 11 level. In the third quarter, the ICT team embarked on its final phase: the extension of ICT infrastructure and services ensuring a long-term, highly reliable communications system.

Designing the System
The Vsat System was designed to provide advanced telecommunications capacity to WFP operations throughout Afghanistan. In addition to WFP technicians, outsourced experts from the commercial ICT industry were involved in developing solutions and assisting in the design of the Vsat System.

Deployment
In preparation for deployment, experts in PABX, Cisco, Satellite and Wireless LAN conducted a month-long extensive training session. This training has provided WFP’s ICT team with valuable institutional memory that will allow the deployment and maintenance of satellite systems throughout WFP operations worldwide.

After comprehensive testing, Vsat equipment was shipped to all area offices within Afghanistan.

On 16 September, deployment of the Vsat System commenced with teams in Kabul, Mazari Sharif and Hirat. Within 24 hours, the Vsat stations were operational. The teams subsequently launched the Vsat System in Kandahar, Fayz Abad and Jalal Abad.

Sustainability
A key challenge in the design and implementation of the communications system was sustainability. Throughout the quarter, WFP’s ICT team thus focused its efforts on the capacity building of the local ICT staff.

Of special note, Ericsson’s Mobile Telephone System Support to Government Ministries and the assistance community in Afghanistan terminated on 15 August. Beginning on January 2002, Ericsson had provided equipment and usage of a Global Satellite Mobile system, filling a critical communications gap. The services of a national Afghan Wireless Communications Company (AWCC) are now in use.
Special Operations

SO 10163.0 UNJLC

Since its inception in October 2001, the UN Joint Logistics Centre (UNJLC) has been working to coordinate and enhance the logistics operations and capacities of the assistance community within Afghanistan. Essentially, UNJLC provides a logistics information base, enabling the coordinated and coherent deployment of limited resources. All UNJLC information and activities may be accessed through the website: www.unjlc.org.

Main sectors of operation comprise: collation, analysis and communication of priority information; coordination with both civil and military authorities; identification and mitigation of bottlenecks; coordination of non-passenger air operations and facilitation of logistical response strategies for the general assistance community.

Key developments during the third quarter include:

Winterisation
- Organisation of an Interagency Winterisation Logistics Workshop and subsequent Donor Conference, resulting in a common strategy for the Government of Afghanistan and the humanitarian community. A Road Task Force was established, under the chairmanship of the Minister of Rural Rehabilitation and Development, to coordinate and advance implementation of the countryside winterisation logistics strategy.
- Linking donors and implementing partners for strategic road rehabilitation projects before the onset of winter.

- Creation of an emergency snow clearance project across Afghanistan, in conjunction with UN Office of Project Services (UNOPS), includes provision for coordinated clearance of key airstrips.
- Regular progress reports as requested by President Karzai for inclusion in the Government of Afghanistan’s winter planning process.

Infrastructure
- Completion of comprehensive road assessments on the main strategic routes in Afghanistan.
- Commissioning of an assessment on Shir Khan Bandar Port facilities.

Air Operations
- Initiation of airport surveys in Chagheharan, Fayz Abad, and Mazari Sharif.
- Coordination of below surface demining at the new cargo handling facility in Kabul airport; continued support for construction of the facility.
- Ensuring standby capacity of UNJLC Air Operations for the upcoming winter period.

Civil/Military Coordination (CIMCOORD)
- Continuation and expansion of driver training courses for UN drivers. In Kabul, the International Security Assistance Force (ISAF) has assumed the lead instructive role, while in UNJLC satellite locations assistance is provided by Coalition Humanitarian Liaison Cells (CHLCs).
- Facilitation of additional assessments by Coalition Force engineers on approach routes to the Salang Tunnel, the Bala Murghab Bridge, and the Koksha Bridge.

Information Dissemination
- Reinstitution of a regular weekly bulletin.
- Expansion and restructuring of the UNJLC website.
- Ongoing construction of an advanced stock-tracking tool to display a consolidated picture of food and non-food stock levels throughout Afghanistan.
- Continued development of a GIS-based mapping tool to display UNJLC’s comprehensive road assessment data.
- Facilitation of the dissemination of recognised technical standards for road rehabilitation.

Field Presence
- Establishment of a new field office in Fayz Abad to provide heightened support in the Northeastern area in preparation for and during the critical winter season.
Institutionalisation
- Creation of a comprehensive Field Operations Manual.

UNHAS

Since January 2002, the United Nations Humanitarian Air Services (UNHAS) has been serving the Government of Afghanistan, 36 UN agencies, 38 embassies and some 240 NGOs with safe and efficient air transport services in Afghanistan and its neighbouring countries. With an additional Beechcraft airplane, the UNHAS fleet now consists of one Fokker 28 twin-jet and three Beechcraft 1900 twin-props.

The demand for passenger flight services continued to grow in the third quarter of 2002. A total of 17,146 passengers utilized UNHAS, an increase of over 37 percent from the previous quarter. A record 6,259 passengers were carried in September alone, and the busiest day for UNHAS was 19 September, when 416 passengers were flown among 11 different locations in Afghanistan, Pakistan and Tajikistan.

Between July and September 2002, UNHAS aircraft have flown a total of 306,703 miles or 493,591 kilometers, approximately equivalent to 12.3 times around the world.

During this period, the biweekly services from Kabul to Dubai began operation on a full cost-recovery basis, and as of the end of September, operated at an average seat occupancy of 63 percent. Since its inauguration on the 8th of June, a total of 2,552 passengers have been carried via this route. 2,260, or nearly 89 percent, of these passengers traveled during the reporting period of July to September.

In the third quarter of 2002, UNHAS also shifted the check-in procedure in Islamabad from its offices to the airport, and established a dedicated ground-handling service to process passengers and cargo.

**Number of Passengers Traveling with UNHAS**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Month</th>
<th>Passengers</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Dec-01</td>
<td>721</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jan-02</td>
<td>2917</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Feb-02</td>
<td>3449</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mar-02</td>
<td>4279</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Apr-02</td>
<td>3932</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>May-02</td>
<td>4821</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jun-02</td>
<td>4171</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jul-02</td>
<td>5331</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Aug-02</td>
<td>5556</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sep-02</td>
<td>6106</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

July-September 2002
Many of the photos appearing in this publication were submissions to the Quarterly Photo Contest organised by WFP Afghanistan’s Reports and Public Information Unit.

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