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Note to the Secretary-General

FOOD SCARCITY IN AFGHANISTAN

JUL 2 5 2006

to reported by 16.

1. Afghanistan is facing a wheat shortfall due to inadequate rainfall this year. The drought has severely affected an estimated 5 million people living in the northern areas, who are particularly vulnerable to the prevailing drought conditions.

- 2. The total production of the 2006 wheat is estimated at 3.71 million metric tonnes (MTs), a reduction of 13 % compared to last year's total wheat production of 4.27 million MTs. WFP programmes distribute 100,000 MTs as food aid. WFP has been able to preposition only 20,000 MTs in 2006. This situation is compounded by a serious funding gap. About USD 25 million is urgently required until the end of the year. Without additional contributions, WFP will be forced to cut back its activities in the second half of 2006 and cancel plans to pre-position cereal ahead of the winter, leaving many remote and food-insecure communities with no assistance until spring. WFP Country Representative has been visiting major donor capitals. WFP Executive Board delegates have also been requested to provide additional funds but funding remains limited.
- 3. The Government of Afghanistan is closely working with WFP and FAO in preparing an appeal for assistance. The primary objective is to assist approximately 5 million beneficiaries in 13 drought affected provinces in the northern regions. The appeal covers an initial period of six months from July 2006 to December 2006. The Emergency Response Commission of the Government will lead the response process, with the support of ministries, the United Nations Assistance Mission to Afghanistan (UNAMA), FAO and WFP.
- 4. An UNDAC mission is visiting Afghanistan on 16-30 July to analyze the overall disaster response preparedness. OCHA will remain in close contact with UNAMA and humanitarian partners to collect data and identify trends and action plans to address humanitarian issues.
- 5. Given the time-critical nature of the needs, it would be most helpful if you could urge donors to respond adequately and promptly to the Appeal.

Jan Egeland 25 July 2006

Note to Mr. Lopes

HUMANITARIAN SITUATION IN AFGHANISTAN

As requested, please find attached update for the Secretary-General about the food Security situation in Afghanistan.

Jan Egeland

25 July 2006