Early warning report is monthly activity of VAM unit of world Food Programme, reflects all WFP, UN activities, early warnings in the country and present situation of earthquake affected areas.

**Earthquake Survivors:**

Heavy rains and snows falls caused hurdles for survivors in earthquake affected areas.

Due to horrendous loss of their assets and basic necessities of life and now harsh winter they find difficulty in access food, shelter etc.

More than half the survivors still living in refugee camps since last year's earthquake can't go home because they don't have land to return to, according to a new UN-backed survey that underlines one of the last hurdles facing recovery efforts.

Landslides or floods simply washed away the places most of the 35,000 remaining refugees had lived, while others can't return because of medical problems, the International Organization for Migration study showed.

"The majority of them don't own land because of landslides or because the area was swept away," finding permanent housing will "be a long process."

While aid efforts have been praised for their quick response to the disaster, thousands still living in refugee camps pose a lingering challenge. About 29,000 of the 35,000 people surveyed were still living in 44 camps scattered across Azad Kashmir, the mountainous region most devastated by the quake.

**Easy credits to quake survivors stressed**

The United Nations High Commission for Refugees (UNHCR) has called for easy access to credits to the people living in the earthquake-hit areas.

It was a high time for a strong and effective advocacy with the government and policy makers for the recognition of these people as citizens and as citizens their right to shelter.

It was basic responsibility of the government to
provide shelter, sustained economic and social development and to ensure access to opportunities to all its citizens on equal basis.

The poorest of the poor should be given an opportunity to acquire land and use the property as leverage for access to credit.

One must be specific while dealing with terms like, land rights, tenancy rights and land entitlements. He said that unfortunately there was no clarity at community level and as well as policy level about these widely used terms. The official stressed upon preparing a proper analysis of the land right and tenancy and devising functional meaning of these terms. According to their survey out of 5,600 families 3,320 considered themselves as landless while 1,942 landowners.

**UN welcomes women’s rights bill**

The head of the United Nations Fund for Women (Unifem) has welcomed the National Assembly’s decision to amend the Hudood law allowing women to seek redress of their issues in courts.

An Official said that Unifem supported efforts by women’s groups to help end gender-based violence in Pakistan. The issue should not be judged in religious courts but in criminal and civil courts.”

UN efforts to end all forms of violence against women, Unifem would distribute $3.5 million among dozens of groups from Argentina to Zimbabwe in the coming year -- up from $1.8 million in 2005 and nearly four times more than that in 2004.

“Violence against women knows no boundaries, it knows no territory, no wealth level and it really occurs everywhere, in every country in the world today.

While clarifying that Unifem’s mandate focused on developing countries, the agency adhered to the standards and human rights norms of the UN as it looked at occurrences of gender-based violence around the world.

**Unesco says 6.5 million children out of school: Illiteracy on rise in Pakistan**

Pakistan ranks second among the countries of the world with highest number of out-of-school children.

These shocking revelations about Pakistan, which spends a little over 2 per cent of its GDP on education, were made in Unesco’s Education For All Global Monitoring Report 2007.

According to the report, Nigeria with some 8 million out-of-school kids stands first in the hall of shame, whereas India follows Pakistan at the third spot with 4.5 million such kids. Ranked fourth, Ethiopia fares better.

To make matters worse, the net enrolment ratio (NER) in Pakistan is less than 80 per cent as compared to other developing countries where enrolment ratios jumped to over 85 per cent by 2004, NERs increased significantly in South and West Asia from 77 per cent to 86 per cent, with the exception of Pakistan and Nepal.

The 6.5 million out-of-school kids, 80 per cent were never enrolled, 10 per cent dropped out, while the remaining could get to school at some later stage.

The grave situation can be a direct fallout of poverty as some 65.6 per cent of the population lives on less than $2 a day, it says.

According to the report, a study of primary school attainment in rural areas of Punjab and NWFP concluded that economic constraints on households are a key factor in explaining the out-of-school phenomenon. The sudden loss of remittances from a household member or the births of an extra sibling both significantly
increase the likelihood. The population growth rate in 1.8-2 per cent. There is another constraint that highly linked to another unfortunate reality: the high incidence of stunting. Approximately 37 per cent of the children of less than 5 years of age suffer from stunting in the country. Under-nutrition has a negative impact on school participation and achievement. Studies in Pakistan and other countries showed that stunted children were less likely to enrol in school, and more likely to enrol later and to drop out.

Poverty explains part of this correlation. The disability incidence rate among children in the country is also towards the higher side. Almost 15 per cent suffer from impairments such as seizures, cognitive, motor, vision or hearing disabilities.

HEALTH:

Awareness about use of iodised salt stressed

Lack of iodine leads to different diseases in human body specially the ratio is high in children. The NWFP Minister for Health while expressing concern over the mental losses caused due to iodine deficiency has urged the need of joint efforts to sensitize masses about its consumption so as to promote community health.

A workshop was jointly arranged by Provincial Health Department and UNICEF. High ups of the health department, representatives of WHO, UNICEF, WFP, representatives of district governments, religious scholars, media men, and organizers of educational institutions attended the workshop.

According to a survey, 60% of children were iodine deficient in Peshawar City. Similarly 4.3 million people were mentally retarded due to iodine deficiency while 8400 neonatal deaths were occurring due to it.

Iodine deficiency could be overcome by very low expenses and that was why in 28 countries of the world the use of iodine was mandatory.

Weather Reports:

Rain spell in Balochistan was continued

Northern Balochistan, including the provincial capital, received heavy rain. The rain continued at intervals, turning the weather cold. Thick clouds were hovering over Quetta, Musakhel, Zhob, Qila Saifullah, Loralai, Pishin and other parts of the province and more rains were expected. The meteorological office forecasted that partly cloudy weather would persist in Quetta valley for few days.

CROPS SITUATION

1.5 MAF water to be retained in Tarbela for Rabi

Indus River System Authority (IRSA) will try to retain about 1.5 MAF of water in Tarbela reservoir for the balance Rabi 2006-07 season (February 11 to March 31, 2007). This was decided in IRSA's meeting.

It was decided that Taunsa Barrage will remain closed for stage-2 rehabilitation and modernisation works for the period December 11, 2006 to February 10, 2007 as per demand of the Punjab.

The indenting point for Sindh and Balochistan will be Guddu Barrage instead of Chashma Barrage during the closure period.

Pakistan may drive up global wheat prices

The world sees Pakistan instrumental in driving up international wheat prices, as it stands among only three wheat-producing countries across the globe having surplus stocks of more than half a million tonnes from last year crop.

A latest assessment made by the US Department of Agriculture suggests that Pakistan along with Argentina and Ukraine would be the major player in the international commodity market to determine 2006-07 prices.

Pakistan’s wheat output is up 450,000 tonnes to 500,000 tonnes and this record production could result in exports to nearby markets, according to USDA.
In Pakistan, the international interest has further lifted hopes of the authorities, which are already considering allowing commercial export of surplus wheat rather than executing operations only through the state-run Trading Corporation of Pakistan (TCP).

Officials said the federal Ministry of Food, Agriculture and Livestock has proposed to Ministries of Finance and Commerce to design a strategy, which could allow commercial traders to have some share in wheat exports.

"Initially, there was an understanding that wheat should be exported only through TCP but commercial exports can fetch better prices with increased market access. The commercial export of wheat would not restrict the state-run commodity trading agency to conduct such an operation, but it would extend scope of better prices of the commodity.

High ups of agriculture and commerce ministries last month gave a hint to resume wheat export after a gap of over two years, amid fears that rising stocks from a good harvest this year could dent domestic prices.

However, the authorities announced that it would not take any decision, until the finance ministry gave a nod to begin the wheat export after analysing domestic needs and its impact on local markets.

Bad weather props up cotton prices

Untimely rains accompanied by hailstorms in several parts of Punjab earlier caused cotton prices to be increased. Punjab prices of cotton reportedly gained anywhere from Rs 50 to Rs 75 over the past few days as spinners feared that the quality of the incoming (2006-2007) crop will be damaged at this crucial time.

Buyers appeared less worried about the size of the current crop but became wary of damage to its grade, colour and other fibre characteristics following the moisture intake as a result of the rains.

Rains reportedly fell along with some deposit of hail in such areas in Punjab like Multan, Sahiwal, Bahawalpur and Faisalabad divisions and also as far as Layyah and Bhakkar so that this unusual down pour instilled fears in the buyers regarding quality who therefore turned eager buyers of cotton while some of the ginners were said to have become reluctant sellers.

After many ups and downs in cotton estimates in this year's (2006-2007) output following torrential rains and some floods earlier in the season, particularly in Sindh, lately the trade had started harbouring the hope that a good crop would be obtained because the yield per hectare and also the ginning out-turn were both showing positive performance.

Cotton price increases

Trading activity remained brisk at the Karachi cotton market. Around 15,000 bales changed hands. The Karachi Cotton Association (KCA) spot rate increased Rs 25 per maund to Rs 2,450 per maund.

The rates were appreciated in lint and yarn market vise-versa and cotton available at enhanced rate of Rs.2550 per maund from better quality producing areas in Punjab while in Sindh better quality lint was being sold at Rs.2450 to Rs.2475 per maund.

Private commercial exporters have purchased lint in small quantity as international market was in stable shape. Due to stable conditions, exporters could export lint on good parity level.

Causes of sugar crisis

Sugarcane is the second largest non-food crop after cotton and ranks fifth in respect of acreage. Prolonged drought and heat stress decreased its production by 22 per cent in 1999-2000, and further 17 per cent in 2000-01.

Of late, there has been confrontation between growers and millers over price. Growers demand higher price for their raw material and millers complain about increase in production cost and imports.

Late crushing causes dissatisfaction as well as financial loss to both, farmers and millers. Other problems are stagnant cane yield, non-payment of dues to growers by mills, and low import parity prices.

A study it revealed that more than 65 per cent
farmers have decreased the total area under cane production due to water shortage, behaviour of the mills’ management, late payments, increased input cost, and diseases and rodent attack.

Constraints faced by the growers are underweighting of cane at purchase centres and mill gates, undue deductions by mills up to 10 per cent, delays in payments, middleman, obtaining an indent, and the payment of premium.

The price structure is such that out of the sale price some 35 per cent of the cost goes to farmer and 24 per cent to the government in taxes etc., 21 per cent to mills with nine and six per cent to wholesalers and retailers respectively. The country exports sugar at low price and imports the same at high rates.

Transporters, particularly trolley-owners also exploit mill owners by demanding additional Rs250–300 per trolley during cane shortage, while a delay in unloading at the gate incurs an additional Rs100 per day for trolley along with the provision of food and tea for trolley drivers etc by the mills.

The government intervenes by issuing export permits to mills, importing sugar on public account and controlling retail distribution below the market price through utility stores.

Production, consumption and demand play an important part as production depends upon support price. The support prices of sugarcane affect the production cost and uncontrolled factors such as weather and technology. The volume of cane crushed is mainly related to production, milling capacity and prices of cane and gur.

Consumption relationship indicates the price elasticity for refined sugar as four and income elasticity as eight in nominal terms. This implies that relatively small change in cane supply causes more proportional increase in sugar price.

Sugar mills, producing in excess to market’s demand are portrayed as going through a difficult period and in need of the state support. Thus many are provided the government’s assistance in a situation that is not the responsibility of the state.

It is a case of state backing a resourceful segment for the exploitation of national resources and rake off operations against the general public. Mills owners are one factor in building the sugar crisis- their reluctance to pay growers the right price promptly.

The purchasing of excess stocks from mills and delayed payments to growers, and delay in crushing are bad aspects for the industry.

Another aspect of delay in crushing causes a negative impact on wheat crop that replaces it in many fields across the country.

These factors create shortage thus increasing the price of the commodity. These factors are manoeuvred towards a specific end by a plan jointly managed by the elements that should have been working to control the price escalation and meet the shortage.

The latest move to resolve the crises is a strange one. Supply to the Utility Stores has been doubled with a view to providing relief to public.

The Utility Stores are selling one kg of sugar for Rs27, while in the market it is available at Rs37-38. A price difference of Rs15 is unheard of and, to the say least, is not natural.

There is an upward trend in sugar price in the international market but the almost double domestic rate is simply not justifiable.

The shortfall of up to one million tons could be eased if the buffer stock available with the Trading Corporation of Pakistan (TCP) is utilised. The stock has cost the TCP Rs18 per kg.

Policymakers have failed to realise the gravity of the situation. Instead of checking the price hike, a free hand has been given to hoarders and profiteers, operators of the utilities stores for forcing consumers to buy other items if they sought sugar at controlled price.

The government has failed in adopting a proper agriculture policy. There is no planning at any level for important crops, including sugarcane, and no monitoring system.

Sugar crisis persisted despite the fact that some two million tons was produced and a huge quantity imported. The country’s requirement is four million tons a year as against the supply of six million tons produced by more than 70 sugar mills.

Although, the government intervention is limited in keeping the prices at a reasonable level but maintaining self-sufficiency in sugar production, static yield and weaknesses in existing regulations are few problems facing the industry.

There is a need to appoint an investigating committee to probe the causes and suggest steps to revitalise the sugar sector. The committee should
consist of experts from the agriculture, marketing, pricing, industry, sugar technology and the financial institutions.

There is need for seed treatment in sugarcane cultivation. Agencies such as research and extension department should be directed to enhance the knowledge of growers through demonstration.

Sugar mills should be bound to arrange and distribute seeds of high yielding varieties on easy terms to enhance production and to reduce poverty.

Awareness among farmers on the balanced use of fertilizer be enhanced and the government should take necessary steps to increase its supply at reasonable rates and at proper time.

Demonstration plots should be organised by the Extension Wing of Agriculture Department at least on village level to disseminate information among the farming community in an effective manner.

MONTHLY MARKET SURVEY OF PRICES

Mostly earthquake areas are rural, their main earnings are from agriculture, and they are directly or indirectly are linked to the agriculture for its livelihood. There fore agriculture in puts high price has increased production cost of agriculture commodities which consequently has resulted in high market price. Main causes of increase in prices of major food items in these monitoring areas that their agriculture sector is totally damaged and they are totally reliable to the nearby markets , so prices of food fluctuates according to nearby market prices.

Over all market situations is much better in PAK then in NWFP two out of five thesils in PAK have decreased in prices ,where as there is an increase in prices are observed in remaining three thesils (Dheer Kot 2%,Bagh 1% and Muzaffarabad 2%).

On the other hand in NWFP prices were decreased in two thesils out of six (Mansehra 15% and Balakot 4%) where as increase in prices were observed in Battagram 17%, Alai 28% Alpuri 2% and Besham 14%.

Wheat flour prices were decreased by 4 percent in the month of November. Average price remain 14 per kg this month.

Maximum price recorded in Farward Kahota at Rs 15 per kg. Huge decline in prices of wheat flour was observed in Alai, Mansehra and Balakot at Rs 14 per kg while it was being sold at Rs 16 per kg respectively about 13 % lower then the previous month.

Minor decline in price was observed in remaining thesils.

Broken rice Basmati prices were gained by 2% and Irri-6 rice prices were decreased by 6% this month of November. Maximum price of Broken Rice was recorded in Battagram at Rs 36 per kg followed by Alpuri and Islamabad at Rs 25 per kg this month. Huge decline in Irri-6 prices are recorded in Balakot at Rs 16 per kg while it was being sold at Rs 25 per kg about 35 % lower then the last month followed by Muzaffarabad and Mansehra from Rs 16 per kg to Rs 15 per kg respectively about 6 % lower then the previous month.

Edible Oil and Ghee price were increased during this month of November. Edible Oil, Pakwan ghee and Dalda ghee prices were increased by 17%, 9% and 2% respectively.

Decreased trend was observed in Sugar price. Average price of Sugar remained at Rs 36 per kg this month as compared to the previous month and have been decreased by 4 present this month.

Chicken and Beef prices were increased by 2% and 7 % respectively while Mutton prices were decreased by 4% this month.Average prices were remained Rs 89 per kg, Rs 112 per kg and Rs 197 per kg this month.

Vegetable prices (Onion and Potato) were increased by 4% and 98 % this month. Average prices were remained rs 36 per kg and Rs 22 per kg this month of November.
Dal Channa prices were remained unchanged this month. Average price remained at Rs 31 per kg. Maize and Tea average prices were remained at Rs 12 per kg and Rs 223 per kg and has been decreased by 10% and 2% this month.

**CONCLUSION**

According to official figures, in 2004-05 poverty was 28.10 per cent in rural areas, 14.90 per cent in urban areas and 23.90 on an overall basis. Despite efforts of the successive governments to lessen poverty, it is still growing and expanding. An improved knowledge of the patterns of commodity price variability and forces behind it can help policy makers in providing a policy environment which is good for producers and consumers. Commodity Prices volatility creates instability and uncertainty in the less privileged segments of the society.

Earthquake affected areas are facing increasing serious food security problems mainly, as a result of many constraints affecting the way food reaches the city and is redistributed with in the whole area. Such constraints, daily faced by the traders, shopkeepers and transporters, mean that consumers need to pay higher than necessary prices for accessing food, the quality of which is often less than optimal. The difficulty of matching of supply & demand, and problems with transport, refrigeration and markets lead to losses and raise prices. The poor consumers spend as much as 60 to 80 percent of their income on food, making them especially vulnerable to high food prices, such as those caused by transport cost or monopolistic practices by powerful traders.

Wheat flour price decreased during month of November; the decline in the price of wheat flour at the retail level, because of good wheat crop and harvest this year. Recently announcement by the government of the higher support price for wheat should act as incentive for growers and result in further production increase next year crop.

Broken Rice Basmati price was increased by 2% while Irri-6 rice price was decreased by 6% during this month due to heavy rains during August -September in the lower Sindh, nearly 10 percent rice crops were damaged, which hurt Irri-6 rice production target and shortage supply.

Chicken and Beef prices were increased while Mutton was increased during November. The recent increase in the poultry prices has affected the low income group people, as it is unaffordable for them to purchase at high rate.

Edible oil’s and pakwan Ghee price were increased this month. Similarly, prices of Dalda ghee are increased due to shortage of supply during this month. Dal channa have no major change in prices during this month. Oil and Ghee prices were further increases till next month because of rising palm oil in international market during the last two months.

In vegetable side onion prices were increased by 98 % while potatoes prices were increased by 4 % in November. Vegetable crops were lost due to torrential monsoon rains in summer in lower sindh that provides major supply of onion in the country during November and December. How ever, heavy rain in July and August inundated and washed away early crops of Onion. Therefore there are no chances of price reduction in onion till next month.

Onion is a daily domestic consumption onion crop reaches the market in June- July, followed by crop from NWFP and Sindh, therefore Government has imported more than .25 million tones of onion from India so far in order to bridge gap between domestic consumption and production.

Decreasing trend is observed in Sugar, Tea and Maize prices by 4%, 10 % and 2% were observed during this month.
### Prices of Key Commodities for the month of November 2006

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<th>Irri-6 Rice</th>
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<th>Pakwan Edible Oil</th>
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| % difference over the previous month | -4   | -2   | -6   | 2    | 14   | 7    | 1    | -3   | -6   | 1    | 83   | -4   | 1    | 5    | -4   |

Vulnerability Analysis and Mapping (VAM) Unit, World Food Programme, Pakistan
## Forecast for September 2006/ WARNINGS

- Rains and snowfalls are expected in Northern regions of Pakistan and AJK.
- Due to snow falling and rains in Northern regions of Pakistan and AJK, there is an expectation of change of weather in over all the country.
- Still there is dire need of food and medicines in earthquake affected areas.
- Their will be decrease in the prices of sugar and stabilize the prices of onion in coming month.
- In earthquake affected areas road access as well as food chain could be affected as the harsh winter approaches.

## Sources of Information and useful Links:

- [http://www.statpak.gov.pk](http://www.statpak.gov.pk)
- [http://news.bbc.co.uk](http://news.bbc.co.uk)
- [http://www.dawn.com](http://www.dawn.com)
- [http://www.pakissan.com](http://www.pakissan.com)
- [http://www.prcs.org.pk](http://www.prcs.org.pk)
- [http://www.waterinfo.net.pk](http://www.waterinfo.net.pk)
- [http://www.fao.org](http://www.fao.org)
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