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## WFP News Release

21 September 2007

# UN HUMANITARIAN DEPOT IN ACCRA DISPATCHES BISCUITS TO FLOOD VICTIMS IN NORTHERN GHANA

**Accra, Ghana** – The United Nations World Food Programme (WFP) has dispatched a consignment of high energy biscuits from the UN Humanitarian Response Depot (UNHRD) in Accra, to victims of recent floods in northern Ghana; this is the first time since its establishment in December 2006 that the Accra HRD has dispatched items for use in the host country.

An initial consignment of 25 metric tonnes of high energy biscuits has been dispatched to the Ministry of Food & Agriculture's central warehouse in Tamale, for distribution to 25,000 of the most vulnerable and food insecure victims of the floods which have affected some 200,000 people living in the Northern, Upper East and Upper West Regions.

“For the sixth time in less than one year, we are witnessing some positive results of the establishment of the Accra UNHRD – a reduction in delivery time and operating costs of humanitarian assistance in West Africa,” said the depot manager Eugene Ndianabo. “Transporting these biscuits from Accra to Tamale took 15 hours, a much shorter time than would have been if we had had to arrange for them to be brought in from Italy, the next nearest depot”.

WFP and UNHRD were part of a joint assessment mission comprised of government agencies, the United Nations system and NGOs, which toured flood affected areas in the northern regions. More detailed and structured assistance will be put in place in due course.

“Accra was selected as the location for the humanitarian response depot as part of WFP's commitment to develop Ghana into a regional logistics and procurement hub,” said WFP Ghana Representative, Trudy Bower. “Its location has proven very useful in WFP's response to the flood victims.”

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The UNHRD is a network of five depots located around the world; dedicated structures to support emergency response. It was designed to enable WFP to respond to four major crises anywhere in the world simultaneously, delivering emergency supplies within 48 hours of needs being declared. The depot stocks important stand-by supplies such as high energy biscuits, drugs and other medical equipment, sanitation and hygiene systems, radio and telecommunication equipment. It is managed by WFP but is available for use by other humanitarian agencies. To date the Accra depot has dispatched 131mt of emergency food and non-food items for assistance in natural and man-made disasters in West Africa.

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WFP is the world's largest humanitarian agency: each year, we give food to an average of 90 million poor people to meet their nutritional needs, including 58 million hungry children, in at least 80 of the world's poorest countries. **WFP – We Feed People**

Visit our website: [www.wfp.org](http://www.wfp.org)

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