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**Statement of the United Nations World Food Programme  
Country Representative in Nepal,  
Richard Ragan,  
On Disruption of WFP Food Assistance Deliveries in Nepal**

**24th June 2008**

The indefinite strike called by the National Federation of Nepal Transportation Entrepreneurs, ongoing impacts of fuel shortages, and the inability by the concerned parties to reach agreement on transport rates has resulted in the suspension of WFP food deliveries. This strike has limited our ability to provide vital humanitarian food assistance to hundreds of thousands of Nepalis in desperate need of food aid.

The combined effects of strikes, lack of fuel and available commercial trucks needed to transport and deliver WFP's critical food aid to needy people across the country is threatening to bring all WFP food distributions to a halt, placing hundreds of thousands of people, particularly those already suffering from severe drought in the Mid-and Far-West of Nepal at great risk.

WFP is working closely with the Nepal Oil Corporation and transporters to find an immediate solution and may be forced to use WFP convoys to transport food aid.

This comes at a time when families around the country are not only challenged by the effects of Nepal's traditional lean season, but are faced with the additional difficulty of trying to cope with the rising cost of food. The challenges to make ends meet are mounting and they can ill afford yet another obstacle to putting meals on the table.

I urge all parties to work together to resolve this crisis so that the trucks and fuel needed to carry WFP humanitarian food assistance to drought and conflict-affected populations, and vulnerable women and children can be made available so that WFP can continue its efforts to protect the lives of vulnerable families across Nepal.

For further inquires please contact:

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