Thank you, Mr. Chairman, and to the Ranking

Member, Mr. Lantos.

I have a brief oral statement I would like to read but a written

statement that I request be included in the record.

Thank you.

Thank you for the opportunity to be here today to testify on

Sudan. My colleague, Assistant Secretary Dr. Jendayi Frazer, has

covered the political and security aspects of the United States Government

policy in Sudan. My testimony seeks to summarize the

United States Agency for International Development response to

the crisis and the plans for the future.

Peace agreements in Darfur and Southern Sudan present USAID

with the challenge of translating the political settlements into improved

lives for all Sudanese citizens. The United States Agency for

International Development is pursuing a parallel track. One is to

aggressively do everything we can, despite the obstacles, to provide

humanitarian assistance. The other is to assess the needs and provide

longer-term development assistance. Peace and security are

key to both.

Food assistance is illustrative of USAID’s commitment to Sudan.

This month, because of contributions from other donors to the UN

World Food Program that have not kept pace with Darfur’s continuing

need, the World Food Program was forced to halve food rations

to the region. In response, USAID is immediately shipping

47,600 metric tons of food, valued at $48 million, to help restore

full rations later in the summer, in addition to our current contributions,

which are sizable.

To chart the course for the future, USAID is actively engaged

with the Department of State on the Joint Assessment Mission to

coordinate recovery and reconstruction in Darfur. However, no real

progress can be made while the operating environment remains so

precarious. Humanitarian operations in Darfur have been inhibited

by ongoing violence and Government obstructionism. Factional

fighting, banditry and lawlessness all put the flow of the assistance

in jeopardy; and humanitarian organizations are increasingly targets

of the attacks.

In addition, the Sudanese Government has resumed placing burdensome

bureaucratic requirements on NGOs and often uses outright

harassment against victims, witnesses and community leaders

who report human rights violations. With these constraints, it

will be a challenge to translate peace into reality.

In conclusion, I would like to thank you, Mr. Chairman, and the

Ranking Member and other Members of this Committee for your

continued interest and for all of the work and support that you

have dedicated to Sudan and the region. Thank you as well for this

opportunity to share USAID’s commitment to Sudan’s future.

Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman.

In terms of the question on food aid and will there be a gap, the

short answer is, yes, sir, there will be a gap. Under the instructions

of the President, there is an emergency amount of food aid that

USAID is getting to Sudan. There are 2,850 metric tons of noncereal

commodities that are in Dubai and are being shipped on an

immediate basis to Sudan. They were on the seas, that were going

to be pre-positioned, a total of 4,650 metric tons of noncereal. By

‘‘noncereal’’ in this case, I mean vegetable oil, that was going to be

pre-positioned for delivery, but those ships had been rerouted and

they are going to Port Sudan.

In addition, there are 40,000 metric tons of cereals that are being

purchased in the United States on an emergency basis. A total of

$36.2 million—the value of that 40,000 metric tons is $36.2 million—

that is being purchased on an emergency basis, and then that

will be shipped.

Within the last 2 weeks—in many situations such as this, the

United States makes a very strong commitment, and the United

States fulfills that commitment. The challenge often is to make

sure that others who have made the commitments, that they fulfill

them, and within the last 2 weeks, there have been demarches that

have gone to 24 other countries, requesting that they fulfill on an

immediate basis the food aid that they had committed.

Our staff, including our new Administrator, our Director of Foreign

Assistance, are making personal calls to try to ensure that

these commitments are made; and it is also my understanding that

the Government of Sudan has, we are told, a sizable amount of

food stocks and has committed 20,000 metric tons of food to Darfur.

That is the first commitment they have made. There is no assurance

at all that that commitment will be fulfilled, but nevertheless,

that is the picture.

There is no question, Congressman, that in this situation,

and I think in virtually every other humanitarian situation

that exists in the world, the United States is the most generous.

It does not mean that others do not participate and participate

very strongly.

In this situation, it is very grim, and there have been, and will

be, continuing efforts to try to ensure that other commitments from

other countries have been made. EU countries—any country that

has made a commitment so far has been contacted or is in the process

of being contacted.

In terms of any of the Arab states, I would have to request that

I include that in the record. It is my understanding that Saudi Arabia

has made a $10 million commitment, but I cannot confirm that.

I would like to provide that for the record.

It is my understanding, Congressman, that with

the emergency shipments, the additional ones that are currently

being made, that that will fulfill about 70–75 percent of the individuals’

food and non-food requirements. Within Darfur, that would

be 2.8 million beneficiaries of the food—food aid and non-food. Nonfood

aid is also going to the IDP and refugee camps in Chad

through both Libya and through Cameroon, and I am told that

while there are obstacles, those shipments are continuing.

In the south of Sudan, there is enough food and non-food that is

pre-positioned throughout the rainy season and for the next 6

months to fulfill the requirements there. But it is essentially within

Darfur, certainly in neighboring Chad and other areas, but essentially

the 2.8 million beneficiaries of food and non-food aid within

Darfur—the additional food aid and non-food aid that is currently

being moved is expected to get its first shipment within the

next couple of weeks to the port, on up until July. And then once

it is at the port, it generally will take 2 to 4 weeks to get to its

delivery sites.

A major part of the problem is the obstacles that occur with the

Government of Sudan. We are constantly working on that. There

was a promising announcement yesterday, but there have been

other promising announcements.

The issue of local purchase was and continues to

be widely discussed. We think in this situation that the most expeditious

way to get the non-food aid and the food aid that is necessary

to Darfur is through the existing mechanisms that we have.

Much of the food is pre-positioned. That occurs on a very routine

basis. So in this situation, we are either a part of it, either able

to move from pre-positioned areas or that was already on the ocean

being pre-positioned.

The emergency assistance of 40,000 metric tons, I understand, is

being purchased now, and will be shipped in early June. So that

is happening very promptly, and we feel in the situation it is the

most expeditious way.

In terms of your question on mental health, for any of the

NGOs—and much to the credit, I think, of the Administration, of

this Committee and Congress—the moneys that have been appropriated

for Sudan, the number of humanitarian workers in the

Darfur area alone in the last 2 to 3 years since 2003, has gone from

approximately 200 humanitarian workers with NGOs in 2003 to

over 14,000 now. The majority of those are either host country nationals

or third-country nationals, but a good portion also are

expatriots. And a major part of what any of those NGOs do either

through United States agreements that we have with the NGOs or

other ways with the international community is to address health,

education, income generation, and mental health issues.

Sure.