

March 11, 2019 Message from Robert Brakenridge

We have had the great privilege to work for many years with staffers of the UN World Food Program. They provide food assistance to populations around the world that are, each year, affected by floods, droughts, and civil wars. They are brave, idealistic, generous, and very dedicated men and women, drawn from all nations of the planet; many have families with young children. I have several times visited their headquarters in Rome, and we have hosted some of them here in Colorado. This to work together jointly and improve disaster response capabilities. The places they work in are often dangerous and difficult. It takes some bravery, but their work is simply essential. They help save lives.

Our contribution is flood mapping in “near real time”; so just as fast as possible. Last evening, we were mapping and measuring the ongoing flooding in Malawi. The flooding is bad enough now, but there is also a tropical storm approaching, and WFP’s help may be needed. Our effort, out here in Colorado, makes some small contribution to helping them decide where exactly to focus their attention, and whether to activate, or not.

It is so very sad to hear of the loss of 7 WFP personnel on the plane leaving Ethiopia for Nairobi.

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