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From:

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Subject:

Fw: Australia minister pleads for food aid for Somalia (AP)

From: OpsNewsTicker

Sent: Sunday, July 24, 2011 10:07 AM

To: NEWS-Mahogany

Cc: SES-O

Subject: Australia minister pleads for food aid for Somalia (AP)

DOLO (AP) - Australia's foreign minister says Somalia's famine will be five times worse by Christmas unless the international community increases its food aid.

Kevin Rudd is in a famine-struck area of Somalia to appeal to the world to help avoid a catastrophe. Rudd on Sunday talked with internal refugees who have had little to eat in recent days.

World Food Program's Executive Director Josette Sheeran said Sunday the program will open new feeding sites in and around Dolo by the end of the week. She said it is critical that WFP gets new funding to fight the three-pronged catastrophe of drought, conflict and high food prices.

NewsTickers alert senior Department officials to breaking news. This item appears as it did in its original publication and does not contain analysis or commentary by Department sources.