



**World Food
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WFP News Video

WFP RUNNING OUT OF FOOD IN CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC AMID WIDESPREAD BLOODLETING

WFP NEWS VIDEO

Bouar/Bangui Central African Republic

TRT: 2:16

Shot: 14-15, Jan. 2014

00:00- 00:46 Wantiguera Village, near Bouar 15

January 2014

WFP food distribution, yellow peas, maize, salt and oil to some 20,000 displaced people mostly from Bouar

00:46-01:06 SOT Denise Brown, WFP Regional Director, Bangui Airport 14

January 2014

"We are delivering up country, notably in Bossangoa and Bozoum and Bouar.

Is it easy ? Absolutely not. We have daily security challenges, in the past few days we had several convoys stopped because of security but, we will continue, we will endeavor and we will reach these people"

01:06-01:38 Wantiguera Village, near Bouar 15

January 2014

Veronique Dobi spent more than a month living in the bush with her family eating only cassava. Here she prepares maize given to her by WFP.

01:38-01:51 SOT Denise Brown, WFP Regional Director, Bangui Airport 14

January 2014

"We are here, the UN World Food Programme working at the airport and delivering urgently needed food assistance to people who have fled violence in the capital. We won't abandoned these people"

01:51-02:16 Bangui Airport 14

January 2014

An estimated 100,000 displaced people living at the airport

WFP gives each family a 2 week ration of 25kg of cereals, 5 kg of pulses and 1,5 kg of vegetable oil.

ENDS

BANGUI – The United Nations World Food Programme (WFP) is running out of food to distribute to growing numbers of displaced people in the Central African Republic because insecurity is blocking supply routes.

Thirty-eight WFP trucks carrying rice are currently blocked at the Central African Republic border with Cameroon, along with hundreds of other vehicles. Following recent fighting, WFP and commercial truck drivers have refused to cross the border.

The impact on food supplies to the capital and the rest of the country is disastrous. WFP cereal stocks are close to exhausted and pulses too will soon run out. Suspending food distributions could lead to further tension particularly among the 100,000 displaced people in the overcrowded Bangui airport camp.

“The main road between Cameroon and CAR is the lifeline for humanitarian operations, which increases the need for these axes to be secure”, said WFP Regional Director Denise Brown.” As a last resort, WFP is considering an airlift food from Douala, Cameroon, to Bangui. But being forced to launch such an operation would substantially increase the cost of our emergency operation in CAR.”

In the immediate term, WFP is prioritizing distributions at the airport, and plans further distributions in the northwestern town of Bossangoa, but with reduced rations. Deliveries to other locations cannot be carried out until trucks can drive safely along routes and their movement to Bangui is secured.

WFP continues to urge all parties to the conflict to allow the safe and unhindered access of humanitarian personnel and the timely delivery of humanitarian assistance to people in need. WFP is neutral and delivers assistance only on the basis of need.

- Since 1 January, nearly 66,000 people in Bangui and 9,288 people in the Western town of Bouar have received WFP food .
- All efforts are being made to position stocks for vulnerable people in the North. On 18 January an additional 9 trucks successfully reached the town, despite insecurity and check-points along the road. Distributions have started in nearby villages.
- WFP is appealing for urgent funding to assist 1.25 million people in CAR who risk hunger because of displacement and the coming lean season. No new contributions have been secured since WFP’s emergency operation for CAR was launched on 1 January, appealing for nearly US\$107 million.
- New funding is required urgently to purchase food that should be prepositioned across the country before the start of the rainy season in May.

- A rapid humanitarian assessment (MIRA) was carried out 24-28 December in 86 communities including urban areas in Bangui and Bossangoa. It found that 2.6m people currently require humanitarian assistance. Women's priority needs are protection and food.

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WFP is the world's largest humanitarian agency fighting hunger worldwide. On average, WFP reaches more than 90 million people with food assistance in 80 countries each year.

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For more information please contact (email address: firstname.lastname@wfp.org):

Alexis Masciarelli, WFP/Bangui, Mob. +23672036006

Fabienne Pompey, WFP/Dakar, Tel. +221 33 84965 00 ext 2103 , Mob. +221 77 637 59 64

Elisabeth Byrs, WFP/Geneva, Tel. +41 22 917 8564, Mob. +41 79 473 4570

Frances Kennedy, WFP/Rome, Tel. +39 06 6513 3752, Mob. +39 346 7600806

Gregory Barrow, WFP/London, Tel. +44 20 72409001, Mob. +44 7968 008474

Bettina Luescher, WFP/New York, Tel. +1 646 5566909, Mob. +1 646 8241112

Steve Taravella, WFP/Washington DC, Tel. +1 202 653 1149, Mob. +1 202 770 5993