



**World Food
Programme**

**Programme
Alimentaire
Mondial**

**Programa
Mundial de
Alimentos**

**برنامج الأغذية
العالمي**

WFP News Video

Location: Central African Republic (CAR)

WFP Alarmed at Effects of Conflict on Childhood Malnutrition

TRT 02:37

Shot: 17-19 March 2014

SHOTLIST

00:00-00:23

Amis d'Afrique health center, Bangui

Shot 17 March 2014

Amis d'Afrique health center.

Children being tested for malnutrition. They receive special nutritional foods from WFP. Even before the conflict CAR had one of the highest rates of childhood malnutrition in the world. Now the situation has become dramatically worse.

00:23-00:53

Amis d'Afrique health center , Bangui

Shot 19 March 2014

WFP Executive Director, Ertharin Cousin arriving at Amis d'Afrique health center, visiting the center.

Children eating WFP highly nutritional foods for children

00:53-01:04

Bossangoa

Shot 19 March 2014

Camera car destruction

01:04-01:38

Catholic church,

Bossangoa

Shot 19 March 2014

2500 Displaced christians living on the church grounds where they receive WFP food assistance.

01:38-01:51

Catholic church, Bossangoa

Shot 19 March 2014

Elisabeth and her family of 35 members live in a tent after their home was looted and burned. They

have been receiving wfp food for 7 months.

WFP Executive Director Ertharin Cousin talking to Elisabeth.

01:51-02:09

Bossangoa

Shot 19 March 2014

WFP food distribution

Returnees receiving WFP distribution of cereals, oil, salt, blended foods and highly nutritional foods for children. FAO distribution of seeds and tools. 40% of the fall 2013 crop was not harvested due to the conflict. There is hope that the seeds and tools can help them plant for the next one.

02:09-02:30

Bossangoa

Shot 19 March 2014

SOT WFP Executive Director, Ertharin Cousin

“They will convince the international community to help them and that is why we are here so that the world can see their faces, see the work that they are willing to do, see the fact that they have survived the crises, the conflict and they want to move forward, they just ask for our help so that they can move forward”

02:30-02:37

Bossangoa

Shot 19 March 2014

Displaced muslim family grinding grain

END

WFP News Release

19 March 2014

FORGOTTEN CRISIS IN CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC RAPIDLY DETERIORATING INTO A NEGLECTED TRAGEDY, WFP HEAD WARNS

BANGUI – United Nations World Food Programme (WFP) Executive Director Ertharin Cousin today witnessed alarming food insecurity and malnutrition in Central African Republic (CAR) amid a deadly combination of violence and insufficient funding for the humanitarian response.

“Today I heard harrowing stories from ordinary women and children of losing their families in the violence and traumatic attacks that forced them to flee,” Cousin said after a visit to the northwestern town of Bossangoa. “I am humbled by their strength

in these desperate times. We simply cannot deny them the assistance they need, especially after all they have endured.”

“The entire population, not only the displaced, is affected and live in a precarious food situation. The people of CAR particularly women and children need us now. We must act before the rains exacerbate the tragic situation,” she said. “We must not wait until pictures of skeletal, severely underweight, children document our failure and neglect.”

Cousin took part in a joint seeds and food distribution programme, with the UN Food and Agriculture Organization. “If we miss the planting season, starting in April, the families will have no harvests because they have run out of food. We must provide food, so that families are not forced to eat the seeds to survive.”

“Donors are providing help to millions of Syrians entering a fourth year of conflict. Then, there are rising demands in South Sudan,” Cousin said. “But we simply cannot tell a child in Bossangoa that we can’t help because she isn’t as important as a child anywhere else.”

So far this year, despite immense logistical and security challenges, WFP has provided food to more than 250,000 people per month in CAR, including specialized nutritious foods to help prevent malnutrition among children.

But the scale of the disaster requires deeper engagement from the international community. In the coming weeks most roads will become impassable with the rainy season. The rains will also increase the risk of diarrhoea and illness for tens of thousands of displaced people in unsanitary, makeshift camps.

“We must make sure this largely forgotten crisis doesn’t become a neglected tragedy,” Cousin said.

With only 35 percent of funding secured for its CAR emergency operation through August, WFP has been unable to pre-position stocks required for life-saving assistance during the rains and the annual lean season when food from the last harvest runs out.

Insecurity along the road corridor from Cameroon to Bangui forced WFP to airlift 1,800 metric tons of rice. With the escort of the African-led peace-keeping mission, MISCA, the flow of food supplies by road has resumed but may be interrupted should security deteriorate.

“Security is the major concern. The international community must step up to help the government of CAR end violence. Humanitarian access is a priority,” said Cousin.

The disaster in CAR has hugely impacted neighbouring countries. More than 290,000 people have fled the country into Chad, the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), Cameroon and the Republic of Congo. WFP and other humanitarian agencies are short of funds and food assistance may be disrupted in Chad and in DRC if new contributions are not received.

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WFP is the world's largest humanitarian agency fighting hunger worldwide. Each year, on average, WFP feeds more than 90 million people in more than 70 countries.

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

Fabienne Pompey, WFP/CAR, Mob. [+236 721 87656](tel:+23672187656)

Melissa Chemam, WFP/CAR, Mob. [+236 721 87429](tel:+23672187429) and Mob. [+236 721 87595](tel:+23672187595)

Elisabeth Byrs, WFP/Geneva, Tel. [+41 22 917 8564](tel:+41229178564), Mob. [+41 79 473 4570](tel:+41794734570)

Emilia Casella, WFP/Rome, Tel. [+39 06 6513 3854](tel:+390665133854), Mob. [+39 347 9450634](tel:+393479450634)

Gregory Barrow, WFP/London, Tel. [+44 20 72409001](tel:+442072409001), Mob. [+44 7968 008474](tel:+447968008474)

Bettina Luescher, WFP/New York, Tel. [+1 646 5566909](tel:+16465566909), Mob.+1 [646 8241112](tel:+16468241112)