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WFP News Video

WFP SEEKING URGENTLY NEEDED SECURE LAND ROUTES AS FOOD SUPPLIES RUN OUT IN CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC

WFP News Video

28Jan2014

Central African Republic (CAR)

TRT 2:04

SHOTLIST

00:00-00:22

Bangui

Shot: 27 Jan2014

Ten trucks carrying WFP food – 250 metric tons of rice and maize meal – arrive in Bangui after a 600-kilometre journey from the Cameroon border.

-WFP trucks convoy arriving in Bangui

-MISCA (African-led International Support Mission to the Central African Republic) soldiers securing the arrival of trucks convoy in Bangui.

-Trucks driving to the WFP warehouse

00:22-00:52

Bangui

Shot: 27 Jan2014

SOT Carlos Veloso, WFP CAR, Dep. Emergency Coordinator

“The importance of these trucks can be similar to the importance of oxygen for the human body. Our stocks of cereals, they have reached the level zero today. These trucks are bringing 250 tons which will be enough for us for three days. If we don’t find quick solutions, we cannot with our operation in Central African Republic.”

00:52-01:12

Bangui airport

Shot: 21 Jan2014

100,000 displaced people living a camp at the airport

WFP has distributed rations to 52,000 people since the start of the year.

People living in makeshift shelters close to the airport’s runway .



01:12-01:43

Bangui airport

Shot: 25 Jan 2014

WFP food distribution to the displaced people living in the camp

01:43-02:04

Bangui airport

Shot: 21 Jan 2014

People living in makeshift shelters close to the airport's runway .
Children eating.

ENDS

WFP News Release

28 January 2014

SECURING SUPPLY ROUTES VITAL TO REACH THE HUNGRY IN CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC, SAYS WFP

BANGUI – After a first convoy of desperately needed food supplies reached the capital of the Central African Republic (CAR), the UN World Food Programme (WFP) welcomed the cooperation that made the tense road journey possible but warned that securing the country's roads is crucial to provide a food lifeline to growing numbers of displaced people.

Ten trucks carrying WFP food – 250 metric tons of rice and maize meal – arrived in Bangui on Monday, after a 600-kilometre journey from the Cameroon border. The trucks were part of a 60-vehicle convoy escorted by troops from the African-led International Support Mission in CAR (MISCA). The convoy was slowed by frequent improvised checkpoints set up by armed groups.

“Good cooperation with MISCA, Cameroon and CAR officials has allowed this precious food to arrive just as our existing supplies were close to running out,” said WFP Regional Director for West Africa Denise Brown. “But more escorts will be needed in the weeks ahead, as the

food that arrived on Monday barely represents five percent of the cereals needed to provide assistance across the country for one month.”

Another 41 commercial trucks carrying WFP cereals are still stranded at the Cameroonian border, along with hundreds of other vehicles. Drivers are reluctant to cross the border, despite the offer of military escorts along the road to Bangui. The impact on food supplies to the capital and the rest of the country has been disastrous.

“We cannot afford interruptions to the flow of food that so many displaced people depend on after being uprooted by conflict. We are working with all parties to try to unblock the situation at the border so more supplies are on the move, while still looking at airlifting food from Cameroon as a last resort, though this would substantially increase costs,” said Brown.

WFP is prioritizing distributions at the Bangui airport and has started further distributions to 40,000 people in and around the northwestern town of Bossangoa. Deliveries to other places 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 passage of humanitarian personnel and supplies to people in need. Food distributions have been suspended in the northwestern towns of Bouar and Bozoum because of fighting. Before the interruption, nearly 10,000 people received food rations of cereals, pulses, vegetable oil and salt in Bouar.

Since the start of the year, WFP has assisted 193,000 people with food in Bangui, Bossangoa and Bouar, including close to 50,000 displaced in the makeshift camp at Bangui airport. Some 25,000 people in smaller camps across the capital also received WFP food this month.

WFP is appealing for nearly US\$107 million to assist 1.25 million people in CAR over the next six months. In order for displaced people to receive food in the immediate future, new funding is required urgently to buy food that should be prepositioned across the country before the start of the rainy season in May.

A rapid humanitarian assessment carried out 24-28 December in 86 communities including urban areas in Bangui and Bossangoa found that 2.6 million 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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