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WFP News Video

03 December 2013

WFP Forced to Reduce Food Assistance for Internally Displaced in Democratic Republic of Congo

WFP Video

Goma, Eastern DRC

Shot: 19-22, Nov 2013

TRT 2:51

Shot list

:00-:22

Mugunga Camp 1, on outskirts of Goma, eastern DRC.

Some 54,000 internally displaced people (IDPs) live here. WFP has been giving them food assistance but, in recent months, the IDPs have been on half rations due to WFP's shortage of funding for DRC operations. With food stocks running low, further rations cuts are inevitable.

Shot: 19Nov2013

:22-:45

Mugunga Camp 1, on outskirts of Goma, eastern DRC.

Namulisi Bauma, displaced, lives here with her eight children. Her husband was killed in fighting in Massisi territory in 2012. She fled to Mugunga with her children. She says there is too much insecurity for her to go back and, in any case, her home has been destroyed.

Shot: 19Nov2013

:45-01:09

Centre de Sante, (Nutrition Clinic) Mugunga 3, DRC.

More than 300 young children, suffering from acute malnutrition, are currently attending this health centre where they receive WFP special nutrition products like SuperCereal (fortified corn soya blend) to bring them back to health. With nutrition stocks also running low, supplementary feeding programmes are also likely to be interrupted. More than 13 percent of children in the IDP camps around Goma are malnourished. There are 17,000 IDPs in Mugunga 3.

Shot: 19Nov2013

01:09-01:41

Ecole Primaire Alleluya, Goma, DRC.

1,290 children attend this overcrowded school. In this class, there are 156 children. Nearly 90 percent of the pupils are IDPs. WFP provides school meals but the programme is now threatened by lack of funding.

Shot: 19Nov2013

01:41-01:48

WFP warehouse, Goma, DRC

Warehouse showing WFP food stocks running low.

Shot: 22Nov2013

01:48 – 02:12

SOT Anny Koledu, WFP senior programme assistant(French)

“We’re giving them maize, beans, oil and salt. But, because of shortage in our depot, we don’t have enough food due to problems of funding. For this distribution, we’re giving them only a three-day ration of maize meal with a week’s ration of beans, oil and salt.”

Shot: 21Nov2013

02:12 – 02:51

Lagabo, South Irumu, Orientale province, north-eastern DRC. This region up near the Uganda border is the scene of the latest mass displacement of civilians in DRC. Since fighting between Government forces and the main rebel group in the area broke out in August, more than 150,000 people are estimated to have been displaced.

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Background

KINSHASA – Due to serious resource constraints, the United Nations World Food Programme (WFP) will have to reduce or interrupt some of its activities as from this month in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), leaving thousands of people with no food assistance.

To continue its operations in DRC over the next six months, WFP, which is funded entirely by voluntary contributions, urgently needs US\$75 million to see it through May 2014.

In the last six months, funding shortages have meant that WFP has already had to halve the rations distributed to displaced people in North Kivu province, at a time when the overall

food security situation is deteriorating in that part of eastern DRC. Indeed, according to a recent survey conducted jointly by the provincial government of North Kivu and WFP, six out of ten families are food insecure, against three out of ten two years ago.

In North and South Kivu and in Orientale provinces, some 500,000 food-insecure displaced people will be affected by the funding crisis. The provision of daily hot meals to thousands of schoolchildren is also in jeopardy, as is life-saving nutritional support to some 180,000 malnourished children, pregnant women and nursing mothers across the country.

“We are very worried about the fate of thousands of people who depend on WFP food assistance,” said Martin Ohlsen, WFP Representative in DRC. “At a time when the Congolese Government and the international community are intensifying their efforts to stabilize the eastern DRC, a suspension, even a reduction, of humanitarian assistance could seriously compromise our long-standing investment in improving food security, restoring livelihoods and building resilience.”

“It’s hard not to think that the tremendous needs in the Philippines and Syria are overshadowing cries for help from less visible, under-reported parts of the world,” added Ohlsen, stressing the need for predictable funding over coming months.

Meanwhile, there is growing awareness about the threat of sexual violence in areas of conflict and WFP is working closely with its partners to ensure that the greatest possible measures are taken to protect women in the DRC, where rape and other violent attacks against women are rife. Food distribution sites are chosen in close consultation with women to limit their exposure to attack and, where possible, use is made of electronic vouchers for food and ‘mobile money’ to minimize friction between beneficiaries and the communities in which they live.

In DRC, one out ten children suffers from acute malnutrition and 6.3 million people are facing hunger and need food assistance. There are currently 2.7 million internally displaced people in DRC.

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WFP is the world's largest humanitarian agency fighting hunger worldwide. Last year, WFP reached more than 97 million people in 80 countries with food assistance.

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