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WFP News Video

Thousands of Refugees from Burundi Flood into Rwanda

WFP News Video: Burundi Refugees in Rwanda

Shot: 06 May 2015

TRT 1:57

00:00-00:30

GV's Mahama camp, southern Rwanda

There are currently more than 25,000 refugees from Burundi in Rwanda. Mahama camp didn't exist 2 weeks ago. There are currently more than 15,000 people living here now. Relief agencies in Rwanda are preparing to support up to 100,000 refugees from Burundi over the next few months if the crisis continues

00:30-00:41

SOT Sylvane (English)

"If [in]my country, there is no war, it's better to be in your country. Yes, I hope to go back."

Background: Sylvane is a 21-year-old secondary school student. He was studying in Bujumbura before the crisis and fled to Rwanda two weeks ago out of fear for his safety because of the political crisis. He preferred not to give his surname because his family are still in Burundi. He is alone in the camp.

00:41-01:12

WFP food distribution. Refugees are receiving one month's supply of food, consisting of maize, beans, vegetable oil and salt.

01:12-01:29

SOT: Valerie Guarnieri, WFP East Africa Reg. Dir, (English)

"We started yesterday distributing one-month food rations for the refugees. There are nutritional centers that have been set up to make sure that children who are screened for malnutrition receive the support that they need. And we're going to need the support of the world to make sure we can do this over the next months."

01:29-01:57

Refugee families preparing and eating food rations

ENDS

- Throughout April, Rwanda and the Democratic Republic of Congo have experienced refugee flows from Burundi. Refugees cite intimidation, threats, or fear of violence linked to the upcoming political elections as reasons for fleeing.
- On 26 April, Burundi's ruling party nominated President Pierre Nkurunziza to run for the third term, a move that opponents said would be unconstitutional. Tensions remains high in Burundi ahead of the 26 June election. Given the precarious political situation, humanitarian agencies are monitoring the situation closely in case of a sudden influx of new arrivals.
- WFP is providing food and nutrition assistance to more than 24,000 Burundian refugees who have fled to Rwanda, and that number is growing. Over 60% of the population are children. Relocation of refugees from the reception centres in Bugesera and Nyanza to the new Mahama transit camp is in progress. More than half of the refugees have been relocated to Mahama Camp to date.
- WFP is providing food assistance to Burundian refugees starting as soon as they cross the border, by immediately distributing high energy biscuits. We provide hot meals to refugees in the transit centres and continue with the general food distribution once they move to the new refugee camp at Mahama. The first general food distribution started on 5 May in Mahama camp, providing refugees with family rations of maize, beans, oil and salt.
- The nutrition situation in Mahama camp is at an alarming level with the global acute malnutrition rate of 25.6%, well above the 15 percent emergency threshold. In addition to targeted supplementary feeding, WFP will start a blanket supplementary feeding for all the children under 5 years old as soon as possible to avert further deterioration of their nutritional status.
- WFP and other humanitarian partners are preparing to assist up to 100,000 refugees in Rwanda if necessary, but our resources are already being stretched by the influx

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WFP is the world's largest humanitarian agency fighting hunger worldwide, delivering food assistance in emergencies and working with communities to improve nutrition and build resilience. Each year, WFP assists some 80 million people in around 75 countries.

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