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WFP News Video: WFP Warns That Urgent Funding is Needed to Avert Humanitarian Catastrophe in the Kasai Region of DR Congo

Location: Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC)

Shot: 27- 29 October 2017

TRT: 02:56

Shotlist

:00-:05

Tshikapa, Kasai region

Shot 27 Oct 2017

Aerial of Tshikapa

:05-:13

Tshikapa, Kasai region

Shot 27 Oct 2017

Driving through flood damaged roads

The rainy season has started and poor road conditions are preventing access to people in need.

:13-:28

Tshikapa District, Kasai region

Shot 27 Oct 2017

Burnt/destroyed homes

Conflict in the Kasai region has caused widespread displacement and loss of livelihoods. Many household and community assets have been destroyed, including agricultural land and community infrastructure.

Jichacha village was attacked by militia in April 2017, many people have been killed their homes were burned and looted.

:28-:38

Jichacha 35 km from Tshikapa, Kasai region

Shot 27 Oct 2017

Sarah Ntumba walking towards her burnt home.

Sarah Ntumba and her children were able to escape when militia attacked the village, in April 2017. Her husband as well as many others were killed and decapitated. She and her children are back to the village but don't have a place to stay.

:38-:55

Jichacha 35 km from Tshikapa, Kasai region

Shot 27 Oct 2017

SOT Sarah Ntumba (Tshiluba)

"We have many problems here, our houses have been burnt, people have been beheaded, everything was destroyed in the village, we are in serious trouble here, we are hungry, we have to sleep under the stars, we don't even have food."

:58-01:31

Centre de Sante Kasala, Tshikapa district, Kasai region

Shot 27 Oct 2017

Mothers with their children waiting to have their babies tested for malnutrition.

The latest WFP/FAO data shows an alarming 30 percent rise over the past year of acute malnutrition in Kasai due to the violence. The IPC(Intergrated Food Security Phase Classification) indicates areas with Phase 4 levels (one phase below famine)

01:31-01:40

Centre de Sante Kasala, Tshikapa district, Kasai region

Shot 27 Oct 2017

Baby tested for malnutrition, MUAC (middle upper arm circumference) test shows red signifying that the child is severely malnourished.

Djoboya, is 40 months old and is severely malnourished, she weighs 7,5 kg. She her mother Bombo Kabeya, and 5 brothers and sisters have been living in the bush for almost a year after their village was attacked by the militia. WFP distributes specialized nutritious food for children and breastfeeding mothers.

01:40-01:55

Centre de Sante Kasala, Tshikapa district, Kasai region

Shot 27 Oct 2017

SOT Bombo Kabeya (Tshiluba)

"We could not find food or anything to eat, we fled to the bush running from one place to another for one year. There was not drinkable water and no food."

01:55-02:10

Mbumba Kamanda, Tshikapa district, DRC , Kasai region

Shot 28 Oct 2017

First WFP distribution in this village.

WFP's Executive Director, David Beasley visiting the distribution site and talking to the people.

Families are receiving full rations of cereals, pulses, vegetable oil and salt. This food assistance is vital for the internally displaced who will not have the opportunity to return to their home villages before the starting of the upcoming agricultural season.

01:58-02:36

Nyanzale, North Kivu

Shot 29 October 2017

SOT: David Beasley, WFP Executive Director(English)

“We only have one percent of the funding from the donors for the money that we need, 3.2 million are at severe risk as we speak, hundreds of thousands of children are at on the brink of starvation, so we need to ramp up. We are there, we are ready to go, we need the donors to step in now, if they don't not only people are going to die children are going to die, you are going to have a long term chaos that is going to cost a lot more.”

02:36-02:56

Tshikapa district, DRC

Shot: 27 October 2017

WFP food distribution

ENDS

BACKGROUND

With 3.2 million people severely hungry in the conflict-ravaged Greater Kasai region of the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), WFP is ramping up emergency assistance to avert a humanitarian catastrophe. We plan to reach almost half a million people by end-December and accelerate the surge at the start of 2018.

At least 1.4 million people have been forced from their homes: they are now mostly elsewhere in Greater Kasai, with some in neighbouring Angola. Some 60% of the displaced are children. Most are living with host families or in the forest, with little access to food or services of any kind.

Until they fled, the displaced were largely reliant on subsistence farming. Three-quarters of those surveyed say they've had to beg to stay alive. Other drastic survival tactics include prostitution and eating seeds meant for planting.

In the worst-off communities, nine out of ten people are hungry – one in two severely so. Acute malnutrition is well above the 10% emergency threshold. Many people eat little more than a meal a day, poor in protein, vitamins and minerals (typically just cassava root and leaves).

The Kasai crisis in numbers:

Severely hungry people: 3.2 million People displaced: 1.4 million People WFP wants to assist in 2017: 500,000 Money WFP needs to ensure food can be provided through end December: US\$27million Money WFP needs through mid-2018: US\$135 million

WFP's response:

WFP has declared the region a Level 3 emergency – the most severe – and is scaling up capacities in the provinces of Kasai (proper) and Kasai Central: they are the hardest hit of Greater Kasai's five provinces, with a threefold increase in the number of severely hungry people over the past 18 months. Two-thirds of the severely hungry are in Kasai province alone.

WFP did not have a presence in Kasai before the conflict, and significant expansion is taking place in logistics, supply chain, emergency coordination and security. WFP and partners have begun distributions in priority areas, offering those most at risk rations of cereals, pulses, vegetable oil and salt. The food is now being sourced within DRC, but this will increasingly give way to regional and international procurement, not least to reduce costs.

Treating and preventing the condition in young children, pregnant women and breastfeeding mothers is at the centre of WFP's response, as the conflict is exacerbating Greater Kasai's malnutrition rates. At the same time, given the well-documented use of rape and sexual violence as weapons of war in the region, WFP is laying great emphasis on protection. Security and access:

While the scale and intensity of ethnic violence has diminished in recent weeks, armed banditry and extortion are becoming more commonplace, including on main roads. Having downsized in eastern DRC, the UN peacekeeping mission, MONUSCO,, has expanded its presence in Kasai. This has made it easier for humanitarian workers to move around.

Still, in a region the size of Germany, with multiple rival militias and a road network that is largely impassable during the September-December rainy season, transporting and delivering humanitarian supplies is set to remain a considerable challenge.

Resourcing:

Despite its gravity, Kasai's humanitarian crisis has received little attention. Sufficient support from the international community for the scale-up is essential. To date, the operation has been entirely underwritten by internal WFP borrowings and advances, but WFP's present food supplies are set to run out in November,

US\$27 million is required immediately to ensure the provision of emergency food assistance until the end of December at programmed levels, with a total of US\$135 million needed through mid-2018.

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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 80 countries.

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