

WFP News Video: Resurgence of Violence in War-torn C.A.R Displaces 100,000 People

Bangassou/Alindao Central African Republic

Shot: 17, 20 June 17

TRT: 2:23

Shotlist:

:00-:07

Shots of destroyed mosque

Bangassou, C.A.R.

Shot: 17June17

:07-:21

UN peacekeepers guarding Roman Catholic church sheltering about 2,000 people (both Christians and Muslims) displaced by fighting that began in May (MSF reported new attacks as recently as June 20)

Bangassou, C.A.R.

Shot: 17June17

:21-:49

Various shots of displaced people (mostly Muslim), at camp on grounds of local cathedral. Another camp mostly housing Christians is nearby.

Bangassou, C.A.R.

Shot: 17June17

:49-1:06

SOT Abdoulaye Aladji, 24 year old Muslim Student , (French)

“We don’t even understand the reasons (behind the conflict). Before we lived in harmony, Christians and Muslims, and we shared what we had. Then people mobilized against us.”

Bangassou, C.A.R.

Shot: 17June17

1:06-1:35

WFP distribution of 20 day food ration of rice, beans, oil, cereals and special fortified foods for 14,000 people. Despite funding problems, WFP is scaling up its humanitarian response to reach 100,000 displaced people with food and nutritional assistance this year — in a country where roughly half the population depends on humanitarian assistance to survive and nearly one million people (about one-fifth of the population) is internally displaced or a refugee.

Alindao, C.A.R.

Shot: 20June17

1:35-2:03

SOT Barnabe Nguedendji, WFP Food Aid Monitor (French)

“People are worried about their future. They can’t go to their fields to plant, they can’t carry on their normal lives. So there’s concern. Everyone needs to go home but that’s not possible.”

Alindao, C.A.R.

Shot: 20June17

2:03-2:23

Woman cooking WFP food.

Alindao, C.A.R.

Shot: 20June17

ENDS

C.A.R.

• **The degree of violence observed in recent months has reached a point not seen since 2014 when the violence between armed groups began. The population tends to flee to very remote areas, away from the main road axes.**

Humanitarian operations are increasingly complex to organize and humanitarian partners are regularly the target of attacks on the roads. There are now more than half a million displaced people across the country – more than at any time since the clashes began.

• **In addition, limited logistics capacity as well as a poor surface transport network comprised of dirt roads/tracks and damaged bridges that flood during seasonal rains, render much of the country inaccessible.**

• **WFP is looking into options for the delivery of food assistance depending on the security situation along the road but airlifting food is costly and needs to be regarded as a solution of last resort.**

The latest violence in the prefectures of Basse-Kotto, Haute-Kotto and Mbomou has only added to widespread misery. Half of C.A.R.'s people require assistance. More than two million are hungry. Among children, stunting (low growth for age) due to malnutrition is widespread.

- **Even so, C.A.R. counts among the world's most forgotten crises. Halfway into the year, the humanitarian response plan for 2017 is only one-quarter funded.**
- **WFP is short of US\$42.4 million to support its work in the country until the end of the year.**
- **With more than 100,000 people displaced by the latest upsurge in violence, WFP is now distributing food to 65,000 people in Basse-Kotto, Haute-Kotto and Mbomou. Specialized nutritious foods are also being distributed to about 6,500 children aged 6-23 months to prevent malnutrition.**

Food security and nutrition in C.A.R:

An October 2016 national food security survey co-led by the Government, WFP and the Food and Agricultural Organization (FAO) found about one in two Central African households were unable to meet its most basic food needs without external assistance.

Displaced people and returnees are particularly affected. Among refugees, as many as 87 percent have trouble getting food. This is also the case for nearly two-thirds (64 percent) of people living with host families and 61 percent of IDPs living in camps. They tend to rely on precarious income sources, such as gathering, hunting, and seasonal agricultural work. The less fortunate are dependent on aid, gifts from neighbours and begging.

Half of all food-insecure households in C.A.R. have been forced to reduce the quality and quantity of meals, consume seed stocks, cut health and education expenses, and borrow or purchase food on credit. These survival strategies are having a devastating impact on young children, pregnant and nursing women and the elderly.

As well as some of the world's highest chronic malnutrition rates, C.A.R. scores very poorly for maternal and early childhood mortality.

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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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