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The Food Aid Organization of the United Nations

Video News Release
DRC refugees in Uganda
Western Uganda
TRT 3:05

00:00-00:47 DRC / Uganda border 1 December 2008
refugees moving back and forth at the DRC Uganda border. Some refugees decided to return to DRC for as long as it seems safe, others are returning only to check on their crops and harvest some food before returning to Uganda

00:47-01:10 SOT Greg Barrow WFP spokesperson
“During the month of November WFP reached more than half a million people in eastern Congo, and this is despite difficult security conditions on the ground and a very weak infrastructure, many of the roads have been destroyed by heavy traffic in combination with heavy rain fall during the past few months. So we are very much pushing forward trying to reach everyone who has been displaced by conflicts in that part of the world. “

01:10-01:51 Entebbe army airbase 9 December 2008
Loading food from WFP trucks onto Antonov transport aircraft and plane taking-off for Dunga

01:51-02:12 SOT Greg Barrow WFP spokesperson
“The airlift has been launched from Entebbe in Uganda to a town Dunga in eastern Congo is designed to meet the needs of around 70,000 people mainly women and children who’ve been displaced by conflict. The conflict in this case is with an armed group called the Lord resistance army which has been terrorizing the civilian population.”

02:12-02:54 Mutanda refugee camp 1 December 2008
Various of refugees arriving
wide shot of Mutanda transit centre (24 KM inside Uganda)
children eating

02:54-03:05 Ishasha reception centre 1 December 2008
Various of refugees boarding buses as they get re-located to a transit centre (Mutanda)



WFP News Release

8 December 2008

WFP LAUNCHES AIR OPERATION TO REACH THOUSANDS OF STRANDED CONGOLESE

KAMPALA – The United Nations World Food Programme (WFP) today launched an air operation to deliver urgently required humanitarian supplies into the northeastern corner of the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), where thousands of people have been terrorised by one of Africa’s most notorious rebel groups.

“The suffering in Dungu has been overlooked as events further south in Goma and North Kivu have taken centre stage in recent weeks,” said WFP Regional Director for East, Central and Southern Africa Mustapha Darboe. “Many thousands have been displaced, and are living in fear of their children being abducted. Their situation could hardly be any worse.”

WFP is flying in food and emergency equipment into Dungu, a town in DRC’s Orientale province, where for several months civilians have been the target of attacks by the Lord’s Resistance Army (LRA). The LRA has wreaked havoc in northern Uganda and southern Sudan for many years, and has more recently targeted towns and villages in the DRC.

At least 70,000 people are believed to be in need of assistance in an area almost completely cut off by insecurity along the few existing roads, most of which are currently impassable as a result of heavy seasonal rains.

In the days ahead, WFP expects to complete at least 16 cargo flights carrying food assistance into Dungu from Uganda’s main airport at Entebbe. WFP will also airlift emergency kits donated by UNICEF, medical kits for the World Health Organisation, and about 10,000 litres of diesel fuel, as there are no supplies available in Dungu.



WFP has already established temporary storage facilities in Dungu, and flown in two all-terrain trucks to assist with the onward transportation of the supplies once they arrive at the local airstrip.

Also in Orientale province, food rations are being provided in the Bunia area to more than 185,000 people, many of whom have been displaced in the past few months following clashes between the Congolese army and a number of rebel groups in the region who have joined forces this year.

Meanwhile, WFP continues to deliver assistance to those affected by the upsurge in fighting in North and South Kivu since late August. In November, WFP reached a total of 564,000 people across eastern Congo, 383,000 of whom were in the worst affected province of North Kivu. However, an estimated 70,000 in North Kivu remain beyond WFP's reach as a result of fighting and appalling road conditions.

Across the border in Uganda - where refugees have been moving back and forth from eastern Congo - WFP is working to assist 17,000 Congolese who have crossed the border since August. An estimated 10,000 refugees entered Uganda in the last week of November alone.

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Note: Broadcast quality footage available upon request.

WFP is the world's largest humanitarian agency and the UN's frontline agency for hunger solutions. This year, WFP plans to feed 90 million people in 80 countries.

WFP now provides RSS feeds to help journalists keep up with the latest press releases, videos and photos as they are published on WFP.org. For more details see: <http://www.wfp.org/english/?n=999>

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