



WFP EMERGENCY REPORT

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This report includes: A) East Africa: Regional Operations for Refugees/Internally Displaced Persons in Burundi, Rwanda, Zaire and Tanzania B) West Africa: Liberia/Sierra Leone C) Former Yugoslavia D) CIS: Tajikistan E) Iraq.

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PART I - HIGHLIGHTS

(Details below in Part II)

A. EAST AFRICA: REGIONAL OPERATIONS FOR REFUGEES/IDPs IN BURUNDI, RWANDA, ZAIRE AND TANZANIA

1. Burundi

a) WFP discusses a resettlement food package for Burundian IDPs returning to their communes of origin with local authorities.

2. Rwanda

a) The UN Security Council does not extend UNAMIR's mandate. Troops to withdraw by 19 April 1996.

3. Zaire - Goma

a) Oil lacking from the WFP ration for two weeks. WFP begins borrowing in the region to fill the pipeline gap for April.

4. Tanzania

a) The Regional and District Commissioners met with refugee leaders of the Karagwe camps on measures to facilitate repatriation.

b) UNHCR undertakes corrective measures to control the recycling of ration cards.

B. WEST AFRICA - Liberia/Sierra Leone Regional Operation

1. Liberia

- a) Due to deteriorating security, WFP food convoys to rural Liberia on hold.
- b) 4,891 civilians flee Kakata, Bong Mines and Todee areas to rural Montserrado county. Emergency rations provided.
- c) WFP and UNHCR collaborate with the Liberian Resettlement Commission to develop a resettlement plan.

2. Sierra Leone

- a) Hostilities continue, with splinter groups of RUF rebels intensifying attacks.
- b) The Foreign Minister of the Cote d'Ivoire visits to reiterate his government's determination to bring an end to the civil war.

C. FORMER YUGOSLAVIA

1. Limited food stocks in all WFP areas of operation lead to continued prioritizing distributions to the most vulnerable groups.
2. Bosnia-Herzegovina: Persistent food aid shortages in March due to delayed shipments continue to impact delivery and ration levels.
3. Sarajevo: WFP relocates head office to Sarajevo. Distribution of food aid continues to be low, impacting food security of the most vulnerable. WFP takes steps to establish a full-time presence in the Banja Luka region.

D. CIS

1. Tajikistan: The food crisis deepens, with stocks lasting only to early May for 600,000 vulnerable people requiring relief food assistance.

E. Iraq

1. Discussions resume on 11 March on the modalities for an oil for humanitarian goods trade scheme. UN consolidated interagency appeal to cover the period April 1996 to March 1997 under preparation.

PART II - COUNTRY AND REGIONAL OPERATIONS DETAILS

A. EAST AFRICA: REGIONAL OPERATIONS FOR REFUGEES/IDPs IN BURUNDI, RWANDA, ZAIRE AND TANZANIA

1. BURUNDI

- 1.1 Two WFP distribution teams are now operational. One team is dedicated to IDP operations in Muyinga province in the north, where an average of 2,500 rations have been distributed in Mukoni camp. The second team will eventually carry out distributions in the entire Bujumbura Rural and Burundi West areas. This team is presently concentrating on

distribution to 8,745 families in Bubanza, as a result of assessments by various agencies and ICRC recommendations.

1.2 Bujumbura: In Mubimbi area, ICRC will distribute bean seeds and WFP will meet with local authorities to discuss joint distribution mechanisms for a resettlement food package for Burundian IDPs returning to their communes of origin.

1.3 North-western Burundi: Ad hoc distribution in Bubanza province is ongoing and should last for nine days. 8,745 families are targeted to receive a package comprised of 15 kg maize grain, 7.5 kg CSB and 9 kg of beans for fifteen days. The Karuzi population in Gitega recently faced several waves of violence. WFP released 3,000 ad hoc rations over a fifteen day period.

1.4 UNHCR's figure of 225 Rwandan refugees repatriated to Burundi during the reporting period is the lowest since the beginning of the operation.

1.5 UNHCR figures on repatriation of Burundians are: 650 from the former refugee camp in Ntamba (Muyinga), 4,000 from Rukuramigabo refugee camp (Kirundo), 1,200 from Kiri (Kirundo) and 20 from nearby Ngozi. WFP and UNHCR jointly agreed to release assistance next week to the repatriating refugees before their final resettlement.

1.6 Uvira: Caseload in Uvira this week is 175,738 (108,266 Burundian and 67,472 Rwandan), including 749 new refugees registered between 1 to 7 March 1996. MSF-H food basket monitoring shows that the energy levels of food baskets provided in most camps are at or over 2,000 kilocalories per person per day.

2. RWANDA

2.1 The UN Security Council has decided not to extend UNAMIR's mandate. Troops are expected to withdraw from Rwanda by 19 April 1996. A UN presence will, however, be maintained in the country through UNOR, a small political office headed by the Special Representative of the UN Secretary General (SRSG). The SRSG held a press conference in Kigali to inform the public of UNOR's Mandate.

2.2 A total of 3,404 refugees returned to Rwanda from neighbouring countries during the reporting period.

2.3 During the reporting period, WFP distributed 1,070 mt of food to 67,000 beneficiaries in all prefectures of Rwanda: 68 percent through foodforwork and incomegenerating activities, four percent through targeted assistance to at-risk populations and seeds protection programmes, eight percent to returnees through transit centres, and 20 percent to the malnourished through unaccompanied children's institutions, hospitals and supplementary feeding centres.

2.4 The security situation in the southwest has calmed since last week, but escalation of incidents have been reported in the northwest.

3. ZAIRE - GOMA

3.1 UNHCR reported that the local military and bandits believe that the UN and NGO assistance communities are preparing for a general pull out. Consequently, the number of thefts and security incidents have increased.

3.2 76 trucks crossed the Ishasha border, delivering a total of 2,179 mt of foodstuffs. 275 mt were dispatched by barge to Bukavu.

3.3 CSB stock will be depleted by the week of 13 April 1996. However, UNHCR has a

shipment of UNIMIX expected to begin arriving next week.

3.4 The market price of vegetable oil has increased by as much as 40 to 50 percent in all camps because of the lack of oil in the WFP ration for the last two weeks. WFP has begun borrowing from other WFP operations in the region in an attempt to fill the pipeline gap for April.

3.5 In Lac Vert, only 40 percent of firewood needs were covered during the reporting period. The under-distribution was due to a supply problem resulting from the conflict in the Masisi area, where wood is cut. In Kahindo, wood distribution covered 70 percent of the needs, 53 percent in Mugunga, and 95 percent in Kibumba. In Katale, no wood was distributed at all, forcing the refugees to illegally enter the nearby nature preserve in search of wood.

4. ZAIRE - BUKAVU

4.1 Selection criteria to begin including pregnant women in the special feeding programme in camps with feeding centres were determined, based on various maternal and infant risk factors. As a result, the number of beneficiaries of the special feeding programme increased from 1,949 in February to 2,567 in March. CSB and oil rations were reduced in the dry supplementary feeding program in camps with symptoms of malnutrition, in compensation for the 200 grams of biscuits added to use up existing joint WFP/UNHCR stocks. The new temporary ration increased the kilocalories per day per person from 1,017 to 1,459.

4.2 At the suggestion of the WFP field officer, CARITAS hired an additional 22 women and Murhala, a local NGO, hired four women to monitor the food distribution system in Inera camp. Best Radio Kahuzi continues broadcasting WFP distribution dates and rations to inform refugees of their entitlements and to facilitate the distribution. As radio AGATASHYA is more popular among refugees, WFP Bukavu is starting to involve this radio station in broadcasting WFP distribution dates and rations.

5. TANZANIA

5.1 On 8 March, the Regional and District Commissioners met with refugee leaders of the Karagwe camps to request them to instruct refugees to refrain from political activities and to cooperate with speeding up repatriation. The Regional Commissioner announced names of intimidators obstructing the repatriation process, and informed the leaders that the GOT was concerned about these individuals.

5.2 During the past week, WFP Ngara received visits from representatives of the Canadian Food Grains Bank and the Swedish Embassy in Dar-es-Salaam, who were interested in information regarding the food pipeline, transit time to reach Ngara, and availability of funds for local purchases in the region.

5.3 UNHCR has requested all distributing NGOs to report on ration cards which have not been presented during distribution for the past two weeks, in an attempt to control the recycling of cards. Owners of such cards appearing after two weeks will be requested to explain the reasons for their absence.

5.4 During the past week, only 88 refugees repatriated to Rwanda, compared to 228 last week. From Karagwe camps, 36 refugees repatriated to Rwanda, compared to 6 during the past week.

B. WEST AFRICA

1. LIBERIA/SIERRA LEONE REGIONAL OPERATION (LIBERIA, SIERRA LEONE, COTE D'IVOIRE AND GUINEA)

1. Liberia

1.1 Concerns have been raised as to the whereabouts of some three thousand ULIMO-J fighters, as only 289 surrendered to ECOMOG on 10 March 96. On 11 March 1996, the NPFL leader, Mr. Charles Taylor, installed a civilian administration in Kakata, Margibi county, and ordered all ad-hoc check points and fighters removed from the Monrovia-Gbarnga highway. Fighters loyal to Mr. Roosevelt Johnson set road blocks on the Monrovia-Kakata highway, held relief workers hostage and harassed civilians.

1.2 In addition to scheduled emergency school feeding and displaced shelter feeding, as of 13 March 1996, WFP distributed emergency rations to 3,315 internally displaced persons in Bensonville, 1,000 in Marchee town, and 576 in Harrisburg, Montserrado county. These civilians had fled fighting between NPFL and ULIMO-J in Kakata, Bong Mines and Todee.

1.3 On 10 March 1996, WFP, the UN Humanitarian Assistance Coordination Unit (HACU), and LWF/WS conducted a humanitarian assessment mission in Margibi and Bong counties to assess the humanitarian needs ensuing from the fighting between NPFL and ULIMO-J in Kakata. About 6,000 IDPs have been registered in Kakata and 150 in Konola. WFP is planning to distribute emergency rations to IDPs in Konola through its implementing partner LWF/WS following registration. CRS and MSF-H will address the needs for food and medical assistance in Kakata.

1.4 The security situation at the port of Monrovia is tense, due to lapses in the port security apparatus. WFP foresees bottlenecks in the port operation due to equipment shortages (i.e., forklifts, trailers, trucks for off-loading, etc.).

1.5 8,000 mt of bulgur are expected to arrive from Japan on 18 March. WFP stock as of 13 March 96 is 12,411 mt of assorted food commodities, including 8,062 mt of bulgur wheat.

2. Sierra Leone

2.1 An assessment mission to Daru and Segbwema fielded by the Department of Health, HACU, MCSL, MSF (H) and Concern Worldwide had the following observations: Despite the absence of a general food distribution, people are surviving well, considering the resources at their disposal. The food situation seemed adequate for harvested rice, and palm nut and vegetables are currently available. Generally, people did not complain of major health problems, although vaccination coverage, particularly in the last 2 years, seemed poor. Malaria and acute respiratory infection were the main recorded causes of illness. The overall nutritional status of children seemed satisfactory. Sanitation within the camps and town was less than adequate.

2.2 A workshop on caseload verification in all camps for the internally displaced in the Western Area was held on 9 March.

2.3 WFP institutional and targeted vulnerable group feeding programmes and general distribution in camps in Freetown are in progress.

2.4 The main highways to Bo, Kenema, and Makeni were reopened on 11 March. Food is now being delivered up-country.

2.5 Food distribution in Segbwema is still at a standstill due to continuing negotiations for an implementing partner in the area. Distribution in Bo and Makeni is in progress. In Kenema, current distribution is to the registered caseload based on

token cards. The April distribution will be based on the result of a house-to-house verification presently in progress.

2.6 As of 11 March, WFP's current stock levels were: 3423 mt of cereals, 188 mt of vegetable oil, 2877 mt of CSB, and 553 mt of pulses.

C. FORMER YUGOSLAVIA

1. Overview

1.1 The Bosnia-Herzegovina Muslim-Croat Federation continues to come under strain due to tensions and disputes between the various groups and slowness in building a much-needed post-war infrastructure, including governing institutions, due to lack of resources. Reconciliation efforts of international mediators are being stepped-up. From the WFP standpoint, persistent food aid shortages in March due to delayed shipments continue to impact delivery and ration levels. Roughly 42,000 mt of food arrivals are expected in the Port of Ploce within the next few weeks.

2. Bosnia-Herzegovina

2.1 The deteriorating situation in Serb-held areas of Sarajevo is of growing concern, as it further undermines efforts to stabilize the fragile peace settlement reached under the Dayton accord. Tensions have arisen in Central and Western Bosnia-Herzegovina as well, although there is evidence that people are returning. Limited food stocks in all WFP areas of operation have given greater impetus to prioritizing the distribution of available food supplies to the most vulnerable groups.

2.2 Sarajevo: WFP has officially relocated its head office for the former Yugoslavia to Sarajevo. During the reporting period, distribution of food aid in Sarajevo, particularly to Serb-held or former Serb-held areas, was low - further impacting the food security of the most vulnerable. In the Serb-controlled areas of Bosnia, efforts continue towards moving to direct commercial food aid deliveries from Belgrade. In light of shifting population movements and food aid needs, WFP has taken steps to establish a full-time presence in the Banja Luka region. Cooperation between WFP and authorities in the Serb-controlled areas of Bosnia on this front is so far good.

3. Serbia and Montenegro

3.1 Despatches from a recent local purchase of 4,000 mt of wheat flour in the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia have commenced, with deliveries to EDPs expected shortly.

D. CIS

1. Tajikistan

1.1 The security situation in Tajikistan has been relatively calm since the confrontation between the government and the army in February. The United Tajik Opposition has agreed to extend the cease-fire unconditionally for another three months, but declined the government's offer to attend a special 11 March session of parliament.

1.2 The food crisis is deepening. WFP, IFRC and NGOs have identified over 600,000 vulnerable persons requiring relief food assistance, but the food pipeline for most agencies is very lean for the coming months. For WFP, current stocks and carryover pledges will last only to early May. Donors are urgently requested to allocate food aid.

E. IRAQ

1. Update

1.1 Discussions between representatives of the UN and the Government of Iraq resumed on 11 March on the modalities for an oil for humanitarian goods trade scheme, whereby Iraq will be allowed to sell oil bilaterally up to a certain amount in order to finance the purchase of humanitarian goods, primarily food and medicines. The outcome of the talks will significantly affect the type and scope of future WFP interventions. A WFP mission will visit Iraq on 21 March to assess the operational capacities to be required in the event of a successful outcome of these talks.

1.2 A new UN consolidated interagency appeal is being prepared to cover the period April 1996 to March 1997.

(End WFP Emergency Report No. 11 of 1996 - March 15, 1996)



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