



WFP



## WFP EMERGENCY REPORT

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### Issued weekly by the United Nations World Food Programme

This report includes: A) Burundi, Rwanda, Zaire and Tanzania B) Somalia C) Liberia and Sierra Leone D) Iraq E) WFP on the Web update.

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## PART I - HIGHLIGHTS

(Details below in Part II)

### A. EAST AFRICA 1: REGIONAL OPERATION FOR BURUNDI, RWANDA, ZAIRE AND TANZANIA

#### 1. Burundi

- a) Security situation remains generally calm following the take-over of the government by Major Buyoya. Airport reopens 27 July. Travel of relief personnel within the country back to normal as of 30 July.
- b) North-west remains stable but tension continues in Kayanza and in the south of Muyinga.
- c) Forced repatriation of Rwandan refugees suspended.
- d) Government authorities in Karuzi province reportedly begin to regroup internally displaced population into four sites, from current 18 sites.

#### 2. Zaire - Goma

- a) Increase in number of children being treated for severe malnutrition linked to movement into the camps of refugees previously living in recently conflict-ridden Masisi area.

#### 3. Tanzania

- a) No great increase in numbers of registered refugee arrivals from Burundi in the week ending 29 July.

4. Rwanda

- a) Returnees from Burundi who arrived during the period 19-24 July transported to their home communes in Butare.

**B. EAST AFRICA 2: SOMALIA**

1. Update

- a) Death of General Mohammed Farah Aideed may affect future relief operations.

**C. LIBERIA AND SIERRA LEONE**

1. Liberia

- a) New peace plan for Liberia approved in principle at ECOWAS Summit meeting in Abuja, 25-27 July.
- b) Situation deteriorates in Tubmanburg as a result of continued fighting between ULIMO-K and ULIMO-J factions.

2. Sierra Leone

- a) Cease-fire violations continue with attacks in eastern Sierra Leone on 27 July.
- b) ICRC given green light by the Government to restart their operations on 31 July.

**D. IRAQ**

1. Update

- a) WFP assists in registration of Iranian refugees gathering at UNHCR office in Erbil, following incursion by Iranian troops into the area during offensive against Kurdish rebels.

**E. WFP ON THE WEB**

1. Update

- a) WFP Home Page on the Web (<http://www.unicc.org/wfp>) includes links to related relief and development Web sites.

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**PART II - DETAILS**

**A. EAST AFRICA 1: REGIONAL OPERATION FOR BURUNDI, RWANDA, ZAIRE AND TANZANIA**

**1. BURUNDI**

1.1 The overall security situation in the country has remained calm following the take-over of the government by Major Buyoya on 25 July. Military presence remains heavier than usual in Bujumbura. The airport reopened on 27 July to both internal and international traffic after a two-day closure.

1.2 Reports of an attack by the army on rebels in Gitega province on 26 July have been

confirmed by the army, although the number of casualties remains unconfirmed at present. The situation in the north-west remains stable but with tension continuing in Kayanza province and in the south of Muyinga province.

1.3 WFP activities in Bujumbura were interrupted on the afternoon of 25 July, and returned to normal the next day. As a preventive security measure, WFP Ngozi suspended its activities on 26 July.

1.4 A UN directive restricting movement outside the capital following the withdrawal of support for ousted president Ntibantunganya prevented assessment missions and other field trips from taking place. However restrictions have been lifted since 30 July; normal Government authorizations continue to be necessary outside of Bujumbura.

1.5 The new head of state Buyoya, addressed UN Heads of Agencies and other diplomats on 29 July, and gave the three following reasons for the change of government: the inefficiency of the institutions in the context of civil war; the need to stop the acute level of violence and avoid a genocide; and the need to prevent insurrection by small armed gangs in Bujumbura city.

1.6 The forced repatriation exercise in northern Burundi, in which some 15,000 Rwandan refugees were returned to Rwanda from Ruvumu and Kibezi camps in Ngozi province, has been suspended. The two camps are now officially closed.

1.7 Planning is under way for a new count of the refugee population, following the movement in and out of the remaining camps of Magara and Ruku caused by the forced repatriation exercise. Figures are estimated at 54,000 for Magara and 11,500 in Ruku.

1.8 Although a three-week food distribution in Magara camp was carried out 23-29 July, the next distribution is planned ahead of schedule, on 8 August, since commodities have been shared by beneficiaries with the incoming caseload (reported to be some 11,400 persons), reducing their average rations from 21 to 16 days. Distribution in Ruku camp is planned for 1-2 August.

1.9 Catholic Relief Services (CRS) continues to distribute WFP commodities in Gitega, assisting the victims of the attack on the camp for internally displaced persons (IDPs) at Bugendana on 20 July.

1.10 There are reports that the administration of Karuzi province has started to regroup the IDP population from the existing 18 sites to 4 sites (Gihagazi, Bugenhezi, Gitaramuka and Buhiga).

1.11 Some 570 IDPs sent to Bugabira commune in Kirundo on 28 July from Rukuramigabo site were refused by the local administrators and sent back to the site. As they had received a reinstallation package, for the time being they are excluded from the general food distributions.

## **2. ZAIRE - GOMA**

2.1 In on-going security incidents, on 27 July a WFP driver delivering WFP staff to Goma port was beaten by a soldier at the port. Also on 27 July, two MSF Holland vehicles were stopped by armed individuals and the passengers were robbed. In one of these incidents, the vehicle was stolen, but later recovered by the authorities.

2.2 The situation in the Masisi region continues to stabilize, with occasional localized security incidents.

2.3 The last few weeks has shown an increase of 40 percent in the number of children being

treated for severe malnutrition. This has been attributed to refugees who had been living in the Masisi region and who fled the area during the period of insecurity, and moved into the camps, particularly into Mugunga and Lac Vert camps. (These children were not included in the recent nutrition survey reported last week as showing a decline in malnutrition rates, since they are not registered in the camps).

### **3. ZAIRE - BUKAVU**

3.1 Registration continues in the four largest camps in the Bukavu area: Inera, Kashusha, Nyamirangwe and Kabira. While the final figures for the four camps are still pending, WFP is delivering rations using the planning figure of 300,320 beneficiaries for all Bukavu camps.

3.2 Non-food distribution, disrupted by the registration operation, has improved. Firewood was received in full in most camps and soap was made available to the majority of camps.

### **4. ZAIRE - UVIRA**

4.1 Border with Burundi remains closed. Negotiations with Burundian and Zairian authorities to receive permission to land the WFP Twin Otter aircraft at Uvira airport are still under way.

### **5. TANZANIA**

5.1 Total new arrivals from Burundi of 638 and 569 were reported in Kigoma and Kagera regions respectively.

5.2 UNHCR continues to show video films about life in Rwanda in an attempt to encourage refugee repatriation. Despite these efforts, only six refugees repatriated during the past week.

5.3 Refugee population reported as of 14 July is 648,202.

### **6. RWANDA**

6.1 Following forced repatriation from Burundi into Rwanda last week, all the 15,112 returnees have returned to their communes in Butare. UNHCR, in conjunction with the International Organization for Migration (IOM), provided transport to the former refugees to their home communes on their arrival in Rwanda. Two monthly food packages were supplied by WFP to the returnees.

6.2 The Food and Agricultural Organization (FAO), WFP, UNHCR, UNICEF, European Union, Belgian Cooperation Mission and the Embassy of Netherlands met in Kigali to discuss ways to coordinate efforts to provide assistance in terms of seeds and agricultural tools to the returnees from Burundi. An estimated 10,000 families are expected to return home before the next planting season in October.

6.3 Despite current political development in Burundi no Burundian refugees arrived in Rwanda in the week ending 29 July. The border with Burundi was closed on the Burundi side after the overthrow of the former President on 25 July. The population of Burundian refugees remains at 3,700 persons (an additional 2,000 have been in Rwanda since 1993). WFP continues to provide food to all Burundian refugees.

6.4 WFP has concluded the third round of general distribution at Umubano camp for Zairian refugees. The distribution was implemented by the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) and the Rwandan Red Cross (CRR). Currently the camp has an estimated population of 13,450, with no Zairian refugees remaining in

Nkamira transit camp. Any new arrivals now will go immediately to Umubano camp where IFRC/CRR will provide food rations until the next general food distribution.

## **B. EAST AFRICA 2: SOMALIA**

### **1. UPDATE**

1.1 General Mohammed Farah Aideed, one of the major warlords in Somalia, was injured by a stray bullet during fighting near Medina on 24 July. After various rumours during the week as to the extent of his injuries, confirmation of his death was announced on 1 August. Currently, this does not affect WFP operations in Somalia, however the ramifications of his death could significantly affect future relief operations in the country.

## **C. LIBERIA AND SIERRA LEONE**

### **1. LIBERIA**

1.1 A decision was made at the ECOWAS Summit, held in Abuja in Nigeria between 25 and 27 July, that elections will be held in Liberia by April 1997 with or without complete disarmament and demobilization. Efforts will also be under way during the coming weeks towards the restructuring of the Council of State.

1.2 There is growing concern about the nutritional situation of the civilian population trapped in Tubmanburg and in other areas in Bomi and Cape Mount counties. Fighting in the area has been continuing between ULIMO-K and ULIMO-J factions, and relief agencies have been negotiating access to the area with the warring factions for the past two months without success.

1.3 During the period 24-30 July, WFP provided some 580 mt of emergency food for internally displaced persons and other feeding programmes in and around Monrovia. A massive city cleaning and garbage collection campaign is under way by WFP in collaboration with the Monrovia City Council and Save the Children UK: some 16,800 citizens were involved in this activity and a total of 186 mt of food were distributed in July as food-for-work. The second phase of rehabilitation of the Spriggs Payne Airfield is now completed with food-for-work support by WFP.

1.4 The Ministry of Education along with WFP implementing partner the Adventist Development and Relief Agency (ADRA), is assessing school buildings in Monrovia to determine the possibility of restarting school classes and school feeding activities.

1.5 The WFP-chartered vessel, M/V Hollgan Star, returned to Monrovia on 25 July with emergency supplies for UN agencies and NGOs. Due to the improved security situation, the vessel is to be released by end of July.

### **2. SIERRA LEONE**

2.1 On the 25 July Revolutionary United Front (RUF) leader Foday Sankoh revealed in a radio broadcast that he was ready to meet with the Sierra Leone Government on peace talks any time under the auspices of the Ivorian government. However, he further reiterated his original stance that all foreign troops, especially the South African private security forces, Executive Outcomes, must leave before he disarms his fighters.

2.2 In his address at the ECOWAS summit, President Tejan Kabbah said that although there was a cease-fire currently in the country, the failure to continue with the peace process will further increase the suffering of the people of Sierra Leone.

2.3 Cease-fire violations have persisted in the last few weeks. On 27 July rebel groups launched an attack on villages in Kono district, looting several houses and raiding a village clinic, from which all drug supplies were stolen.

2.4 The town of Tissoh, which is within a few kilometres of WFP's RTI relief food warehouse in Kenema, is abandoned due to constant rebel attacks. July distribution for the displaced in Kenema has just finished.

2.5 The International Committee of the Red Cross, ICRC, has been given formal permission by the Government to restart their operations in Sierra Leone on 31 July. ICRC will complete the food distributions to 100,000 beneficiaries in Segbwema/Daru which had been suspended by the Government in early July, and will start flying food by helicopter to 10,000 beneficiaries in rural Pujehun.

2.6 WFP has agreed to provide assistance and food-for-work to the African Housing Fund Project which is currently operating in the Kambia district. This project aims at constructing houses for 800 families who would directly own the houses after completion. Food approved for the construction of the 800 housing units amount to 40 mt. The programme will also train 180 community members in masonry and carpentry through food for training.

2.7 Current WFP stocks: cereals 12,000 mt; veg. oil 1,290 mt; CSB 2,770; pulses 1,655 mt.

## **D. IRAQ**

### **1. UPDATE**

1.1 Iranian troops have pulled back into Iran after crossing the border into northern Iraq late last week, in a two day offensive against Iranian Kurdish rebels. The attack was on a rebel camp at Koysinjab, 50 km from the border, in the autonomous governorate of Erbil. During the attack, several thousand refugees fled their homes in the area.

1.2 WFP has participated to the registration of some 1,030 women and children who had gathered in front of the UNHCR building in the town of Erbil. With the calming down of the security situation these people will be encouraged to return to their villages. WFP will make food rations for these persons available to UNHCR, if they are required.

## **E. WFP ON THE WEB UPDATE**

### **1. WHAT'S NEW**

1.1 Recent additions to the WFP Home Page on the Internet Web, which can be found at URL

<http://www.unicc.org/wfp>

include a revised list of links to various other relief and development Web sites (click on the last button on the front page, Related Web Sites). Through the list you can link directly to the emergency pages of UN agencies such as UNHCR and UNICEF, and the extremely useful Relief Web of the UN Department of Humanitarian Affairs (<http://www.reliefweb.int>), as well as to ICRC, IFRC, and many NGO sites. Once you are in the FAO home page, click on Economics to find material under FAO's Global Information and Early Warning System (GIEWS). Direct links to USAID Regional Information and the USAID FEWS Project are also provided.

1.2 For best viewing of many useful sites which are now using frames, download Netscape

2.0 from one of several sites on the Web. Contact [Webmaster@wfp.org](mailto:Webmaster@wfp.org) if you require help.

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(End WFP Emergency Report No. 30 of 1996 - August 2, 1996)

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