

WFP EMERGENCY REPORT

Report No. 34 of 1996 Date: 30 August 1996

Issued weekly by the United Nations World Food Programme

This report includes: A) Burundi, Rwanda, Zaire and Tanzania B) Liberia and Sierra Leone C) Iraq D) Democratic People's Republic of Korea.

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PART I - HIGHLIGHTS

(Details below in Part II)

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

1. Burundi

- a) WFP Executive Director meets former Tanzanian President Julius Nyerere in Rome to convey her concern over impact of sanctions on delivery of humanitarian assistance in Burundi.
- b) Embargo continues, but second WFP humanitarian convoy from Tanzania arrives 25 August, with relief food supplies for WFP and UNHCR, and medical kits for UNICEF.
- c) Nearly all Rwandan refugees have now returned to Rwanda.
- d) Security situation continues to be precarious in some parts of the country.

2. Rwanda

- a) Prime Ministers of Rwanda and Zaire discuss rapid and total repatriation of Rwandan refugees in Zaire.
- b) Security incidents claim lives in Cyangugu, Gisenyi and Ruhengeri. Some roads in the west off-limits for UN staff.
- c) From 20 to 26 August, 26,678 Rwandans return from Burundi.

3. Zaire - Goma

a) No major reaction on the part of the refugees to official statements on large-scale repatriation.

4. Zaire - Uvira

a) Flow of refugees from Cibitoke and Bubanza provinces in Burundi increases.

b) Fears raised by reported availability of non-detectable plastic mines in the region.

B. LIBERIA AND SIERRA LEONE

1. Liberia

a) New ECOMOG Field Commander calls for a doubling in size of the peace-keeping force.

b) The mandate of UNOMIL has been extended.

2. Sierra Leone

a) WFP to participate in a round table meeting on Sierra Leone in Geneva on 17-18 September.

b) Road movement to the south-east stopped due to security.

c) The Kailahun cross-line operation continues, with ICRC distributing WFP commodities.

C. IRAQ

1. Update

a) WFP assists in updating population figures in the three autonomous governorates in northern Iraq in preparation for implementation of Security Council Resolution 986.

b) Clashes between Kurdish factions in the Erbil governorate hamper the re-registration process, but are not affecting ongoing WFP emergency distributions.

D. DPR KOREA

1. Update

a) American ship arrives at Nampo on 20 August with cargo of relief food as part of WFP emergency operation.

b) Other WFP consignments have recently arrived or are expected in coming weeks.

PART II - DETAILS

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

1. BURUNDI (information as of 30 August 1996)

1.1 The WFP Executive Director, Ms. Catherine Bertini, met former Tanzanian President, Mr. Julius Nyerere, in Rome on 30 August and conveyed her concern over the impact of the recent sanctions on the delivery of humanitarian assistance to vulnerable groups in Burundi.

1.2 As of 27 August, all Rwandan refugees had repatriated from Burundi with the exception of 223 who chose not to return.

1.3 The embargo by several African countries continues to isolate Burundi.

1.4 The second WFP humanitarian convoy from Tanzania crossed the border from Isaka and arrived at Ngozi on 25 August. The convoy contained food for WFP, biscuits for UNHCR and medical sets for UNICEF.

1.5 WFP Tanzania will continue to organise regular cross-border convoys to Burundi carrying food and medicine for WFP and other UN agencies and NGOs, as requested by the UN Humanitarian Coordinator/UN Resident Coordinator in Burundi.

1.6 Diesel supplies in-country are sufficient to maintain WFP operations for about two weeks. However, petrol supplies are running very low. The supply problem has been exacerbated by attacks on power lines leading to cuts in electricity in Bujumbura from the weekend of 24 August; the use of generators for warehouse/office and residences has further exhausted the fuel supply.

1.7 WFP and UNHCR have agreed to share existing fuel stocks with other UN agencies and NGOs for humanitarian programmes.

1.8 International flights into Burundi remain blocked. The WFP Twin Otter continues in-country rotations as usual for humanitarian operations.

1.9 It is hoped that the upcoming Regional Sanctions Committee meeting will consider humanitarian exemptions including fuel, as well as pre-cleared schedule air service with neighbouring countries.

1.10 President Buyoya announced the formation of a transitional Parliament. The Prime Minister, Pascal Firmin Ndimira, visited the administrations of Gitega, Karuzi, Ruyigi and Cankuzo, to explain the aims and priorities of the new Government, described as restoring peace and authority and reviving the economy.

1.11 The Burundi Government has expressed concern at a possible serious impact on food production if the embargo continues to block entry from Tanzania of 4,000 mt of agricultural input needed for the coming season for mid-September planting.

1.12 Security in Bujumbura city remains relatively stable; a security incident in Kamenge neighbourhood on 20 August left five dead. Security in Bujumbura Rural remains troubled with one military operation in Nyambuye zone leaving 38 rebels dead. On one of the main highways (RN3) leading out of Bujumbura, an ambush against three vehicles on 21 August was reported.

1.13 The security situation continues to be precarious in parts of the country. The South and south-west of Kayanza province and the border area of Kayanza/Ngozi/Gitega/Karuzi provinces remain insecure. An attack by armed rebels on 15 August left 30 dead in Cibitoke province. Security remains tense in Giheta commune of Gitega province where skirmishes were reported on 18 August.

1.14 Due to continuing insecurity in central Burundi, WFP staff have not yet returned to this area.

1.15 WFP continues food distribution to internally displaced persons (IDPs), resettlement programmes and special feeding programmes. A weekly average of 250 mt has been distributed during the past three weeks.

2. RWANDA

2.1 The Prime Ministers of Rwanda and Zaire met on 21 and 22 August in Kigali to discuss repatriation issues. According to Agence France Press, the two PMs reached an agreement on the rapid and total repatriation of the estimated one million Rwandan refugees currently in Zaire. According to the report, the whole operation should be concluded before the legislative elections in Zaire, due next year. Separation of intimidators is expected to take place parallel to the repatriation operation. Radio Rwanda announced that 28 Rwandans, including 17 former Hutu soldiers, had been expelled by Zaire to Rwanda on 21 August.

2.2 Serious security incidents, involving loss of human life, have been reported from Cyangugu, Gisenyi and Ruhengeri. Killings have been attributed to incursion related insurgency activities. A number of roads in the western prefectures remain off-limits for UN staff. Other prefectures remained relatively calm.

2.3 From 20 to 26 August, returnee transit centres in Rwanda received a total of 27,197 Rwandans returning from exile with the vast majority coming from Burundi (26,678). As of 26 August, most new arrivals had been registered, had received food-aid rations and had been transported to their communes of origin. At 26 August, thousands of returnees were continuing to arrive from Burundi.

2.4 Zairian refugees continue to arrive in Rwanda. From 20 to 26 August, the number of new asylum-seekers was 221 persons. All refugees are reported to have left their homes more than two months ago. The new arrivals have been placed in the Umubano camp in Gisenyi province. Since the nutritional situation in the camp remains fragile, the latest general distribution to 13,060 refugees also included a supplement of 100 gr beans provided by the Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs. This supplement represents an additional 335 kcal to the basic food ration of 1,979 kcal provided by WFP.

2.5 Despite the border closure between the two countries, Burundian refugees also continue to arrive to Rwanda. As of 25 August, the total number of recent Burundian refugees in Bugarama in Cyangugu province reached 3,818 persons (an additional 2,000 have been in Rwanda since 1993).

2.6 In view of the current agricultural situation and upon the request of the Ministry of Agriculture, WFP plans to implement a Seeds Protection Programme in the second half of September. Seeds protection food rations will be provided by WFP to facilitate proper utilisation of the distributed seeds. The programme is expected to provide 4,103 mt of food to 98,165 vulnerable farming families (including all recent returnees) in the prefectures of Butare, Gikongoro, Kibuye, Cyangugu, Gitarama, Kigali (Rural) and Kibungo. A total of 600 mt bean seeds will be distributed for the seed programme. In addition to seeds and food rations, all returnee families will be provided with hoes.

3. ZAIRE - GOMA

3.1 As reported in the Rwanda section, there has been a recent statement by the Zairian and Rwandan Prime Ministers on bringing about rapid repatriation. There has been no major reaction on the part of the refugees.

3.2 The security situation in the Masisi area continues to improve. The general situation in the camp areas is quite calm, except for minor incidents. Regional authorities in the Rutshuru zone, north of Katale camp, have forbidden refugees to stay in Zairian Hutu

villages after 1800 hours.

3.3 Due to some pipeline problems with regard to cereals, the ration has been decreased to prolong the provision of cereals for an additional four weeks. The ration has subsequently been set at 1,076 kcal against the ration of 1,431 kcal set in the past weeks.

3.4 UNHCR continues to carry out preparations for the verification exercise planned for 1 to 3 September. Caseload for this week has been set at 727,113 beneficiaries.

3.5 The general health situation remains quite good with the number of new cases of severe malnutrition decreasing in all camps.

3.6 A total of 1,173 mt of foodstuffs were received from 19 to 25 August, and 335 mt of cereals were dispatched to Bukavu.

4. ZAIRE - BUKAVU

4.1 The transfer of refugees continues from Bwina camp to Karama camp on Idjwi Island. 5,332 beneficiaries from Bwina have thus far been registered at Karama camp. Preparations are under way for the transfer of refugees from the northern camps to Nymuhiva.

4.2 On 23 August explosions were reported in both Nyangezi and Mushweshe camps. The explosions were supposedly a result of heavy artillery fire from across the border.

4.3 Stock levels have fallen over the past few weeks with particular problems encountered in the provision of pulses and salt. Supply from the northern route has been affected by a delayed vessel arrival and delays in regional purchases in Kenya. Furthermore, the breakdown of both WFP cranes at Uvira port, combined with a significant increase in the Uvira caseload over the past weeks had an important impact on Bukavu receipts from the southern route. Both cranes were up and running by 29 August.

4.4 A total of 488 mt of foodstuffs were received between 19 and 25 August.

5. ZAIRE - UVIRA

5.1 From 20 to 26 August, refugee inflow to Uvira is reported to have increased from 300 to 400 refugees per day, mainly originating from Cibitoke and Bubanza provinces in Burundi.

5.2 Non-detectable plastic mines are said to be available in the region, representing a danger to the local population and refugees and for WFP and other relief agency convoys and staff.

5.3 UNHCR population figures for the camps, as of 23 August, are estimated at 214,316. WFP/UNHCR planning figure has been revised to 215,000.

6. TANZANIA

6.1 From 18 to 25 August, a total of 353 newly arriving refugees entered Ngara district; of the total, 331 were Burundians. New refugees continue to enter into Kibondo and Kasulu districts with respectively 185 and 298 entering the two areas during the reporting week.

6.2 Following restrictions on refugee movement and activities in Karagwe on 21 August, some refugees who had been living in the villages without ration cards have returned to camps. The district trade and revenue offices informed refugee businessmen to register their businesses. The markets in the camps have emptied.

6.3 Muyuvosi, which is the extension of Mtabila camp in Kasulu district, will receive some 3,000 new arrivals from Burundi who are currently being accommodated in a primary school in Mtabila.

6.4 The refugee population was reported at 25 August as 652,526.

B. LIBERIA AND SIERRA LEONE

1. LIBERIA

1.1 At the Summit meeting of the Committee of Nine (Benin, Burkina Faso, Ghana, Nigeria, Gambia, Togo, Guinea Conakry, Senegal and Cote d'Ivoire), which took place in Abuja, Nigeria from 13-17 August, a new timetable for the peace process was drafted. The Summit has also warned faction leaders that they would now be under threat of international political, legal and economic sanctions, and that they would be banned from participating in elections, should they fail to comply with the peace accord.

1.2 At the Committee of Nine meeting the new ECOMOG Field Commander in Liberia called for a doubling in size of the peace-keeping force to ensure the success of the new Abuja peace agreement. The Governments of Togo, Burkina Faso and Cote d'Ivoire have all expressed willingness to send further troops to Liberia.

1.3 The mandate of the UN Peace Keeping Mission (UNOMIL) has been extended following the signing of the Abuja Accord, with the number of observers (MILOBS) increased from 10 to 34.

1.4 WFP delivered some 121 mt food commodities to 28,310 IDPs living in 19 shelters located between Totota and Gbarnga. Most of the shelters are occupied by IDPs from Upper Lofa. The recent WFP assessment mission to the camps revealed poor nutritional conditions of many of the children and among the elderly population in the camps.

2. SIERRA LEONE

2.1 WFP will participate in a round table meeting on Sierra Leone in Geneva from 17-18 September. The Government will present its National Rehabilitation, Reconstruction and Resettlement proposal to donors at the meeting. The programme aims to resettle displaced persons and repatriate refugees by assisting them to return to normal productive activities. This programme also aims to demobilize ex-soldiers by integrating them into normal activities.

2.2 In continued cease-fire violations on August 26, an ambush on the Bo/Kenema highway, some 8 miles from Kenema, left three persons dead and two injured.

2.3 WFP has suspended road movements from Freetown to Bo and Kenema after five commercial trucks were hijacked at mile 91. One of the trucks was under WFP contract, and was carrying some 620 bags of bulgur wheat. The trucks have not yet been recovered.

2.4 A group of 680 IDPs have recently arrived at the Magbenteh displaced camp in Makeni in poor condition. WFP has provided all new arrivals with a 2-week emergency food ration. General food distribution took place from 13-16 August. Distribution in the township is on-going.

2.5 The Kailahun cross-line operation continues. The International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) distributed a total of 446 mt WFP commodities over the reporting period.

C. IRAQ

1. Update

1.1 As part of the preparations for the implementation of Security Council Resolution 986, allowing for the sale of up to USD 2 billion worth of oil over a six month period for the importation by the government of Iraq of food and medical supplies, WFP is assisting in updating population figures in the three autonomous governorates in the north (Erbil, Dohuk and Sulamanyia). WFP is covering the costs of staff and equipment to introduce the same computerised system for the registration of the population that is in use in the rest of the country. The system is expected to ensure that food distributions under Security Council Resolution 986 are equitably effected throughout the whole country.

1.2 Clashes between the two Kurdish factions PUK and PDK in the Choman area in the north of the Erbil governorate were reported to be causing population displacements and to be hampering the re-registration exercise. Clashes have not affected ongoing distribution of food by WFP under the current emergency operation. In Erbil governorate alone, 850 mt of emergency food aid are being distributed in August to 100,000 beneficiaries.

D. DEMOCRATIC PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF KOREA

1. Update

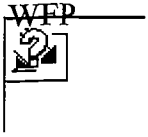
1.1 The American relief cargo of 6,600 mt rice, 3,490 mt corn soy blend (CSB) and 2,936 mt corn meal arrived at Nampo on 20 August on the first US flag cargo ship to a North Korean port since 1951. Discharge was completed 25 August, and distribution is under way. American government representatives are presently visiting the country.

1.2 A WFP purchase of 9,000 mt rice arrived 24 August. Discharge is expected to be completed 30 August. The balance of the WFP purchase of rice, 9,797 mt, is presently being loaded on a second chartered vessel in a Vietnamese port, and is expected in Nampo on 7 September.

1.3 Funds provided by Japan (USD 2.15 million) and the Republic of Korea (USD 2 million) which were earmarked for purchases of CSB to be distributed to children below five years of age, have been used to purchase 5,970 mt CSB from four different suppliers in Belgium, Holland, Kenya and South Africa. The 1,000 mt CSB purchased in northern Europe are afloat on four different liner vessels and all are expected to arrive in Dalian, China (a port near the DPR Korea border) between 13 and 24 September. On-forwarding by land is expected to take a week. A shipment of 2,485 mt CSB from Kenya will be sent directly to Nampo early October and the balance from South Africa will arrive Nampo in the second half of October.

(End WFP Emergency Report No. 34 of 1996 - August 30, 1996)





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