



WFP EMERGENCY REPORT

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This report includes: A) General: Madrid Declaration B) East Africa 1: Regional Operations for Refugees/IDPs in Rwanda, Zaire, Burundi and Tanzania C) East Africa 2: Somalia update D) West Africa: Africa: Angola E) Former Yugoslavia F) Democratic People's Republic of Korea G) Iraq.

Note: No Emergency Report scheduled for 29 December 1995.

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PART I - HIGHLIGHTS

(Details below in part II)

A. GENERAL

1. Madrid Humanitarian Summit, convened by European Commissioner for Humanitarian Aid, met on 14 December 1995 to highlight humanitarian issues on the international agenda.

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

1. Regional: Joint Communiqué on repatriation issued from meeting of the Tripartite Commission in Geneva on 20 December. Not yet clear what impact of communiqué will be in diffusing tension in the refugee camps in eastern Zaire.
2. Burundi: Latest series of deliberate grenade attacks on ICRC, NGOs and UN agencies in Ngozi and Gitega in northern Burundi lead to evacuation of relief workers and suspension of relief programmes in the area.
3. Rwanda: Nine of the 18 NGOs who had their activities suspended in Rwanda have been reinstated; WFP residence attacked by armed men and vehicle stolen; first court cases by the International Tribunal on Rwanda began on 12 December.
4. Zaire - Goma: Another two mines found on road to Kibumba.

C. EAST AFRICA 2: HORN OF AFRICA

1. Somalia: Food aid losses in warehouse fire in north Mogadishu of 25 Nov greater than first estimated.

D. WEST AFRICA

1. Angola: First of three monthly distribution in Likua is successfully completed; WFP cargo plane detained overnight by UNITA in M'Banza Congo; for the second week in a row, WFP does not receive convoy security clearance for northern corridor.

E. FORMER YUGOSLAVIA

1. Bosnia-Herzegovina: Deployment of NATO troops is continuing, following the transfer on 20 December of responsibility for keeping the peace in Bosnia-Herzegovina from UN forces to NATO; food aid convoys continue to move to all areas of Bosnia without obstruction or delay.

F. DEMOCRATIC PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF KOREA

1. Results of FAO/WFP Crop and Food Supply Assessment mission to be released soon. Report warns that unless substantial food aid is provided to the DPRK, severe food shortages and starvation will affect millions in coming months.

G. IRAQ

1. Insecurity halts WFP distributions in the Governorate of Sulemaniyah in the northern "autonomous" region; WFP operation in Iraq still urgently in need of pledges.

PART II - COUNTRY AND REGIONAL OPERATIONS DETAILS

A. GENERAL

1. MADRID HUMANITARIAN SUMMIT

1.1 The heads of the world's major humanitarian agencies, including WFP, met in an historic summit Thursday, 14 December 1995, in Madrid, and called for decisive international action to resolve and prevent the crises that threaten the stability of our planet.

1.2 The summit was convened by Emma Bonino, European Commissioner for Humanitarian Aid, in response to the mounting frustration of humanitarian organizations that their work is being used as a substitute for political action.

1.3 The Madrid Declaration states that simply addressing humanitarian crises is not enough. Humanitarian activities should not be used as a substitute for resolute political action. Action must be taken to prevent disasters by attacking root causes such as poverty, hunger and human rights abuses. The links between relief and development must be strengthened. The Declaration calls for a global campaign against hunger, and for recognition of the central role of women in the planning, management and distribution of relief assistance as the best way to ensure that relief reaches the most vulnerable.

1.4 The Madrid Declaration is being faxed and e-mailed as a supplement to this issue of the WFP Emergency Report.

B. EAST AFRICA 1: REGIONAL OPERATIONS FOR REFUGEES/IDPs IN RWANDA,

ZAIRE, BURUNDI AND TANZANIA

1. REGIONAL

1.1 A Joint Communique has been issued following a meeting of the Tripartite Commission in Geneva on 20 December 1995, held at the invitation of the High Commissioner for Refugees. The objective of the meeting was to evaluate the progress made in the process of repatriation of Rwandan refugees from Zaire.

1.2 The Communique states that the three parties reaffirmed the principle that repatriation is the only viable solution to the problem of Rwandan refugees, and that they expressed serious concern about the significant drop in the number of repatriants during the last months. The communique continues: "With due respect to the voluntary character of repatriation, the parties agreed to proceed with the progressive closure of the refugee camps in north and south Kivu and the repatriation of the refugees from the camps to Rwanda. With the closure of each camp, those who intimidate the refugees will be removed, and repatriation of refugees will take place in groups."

2. BURUNDI

2.1 STOP PRESS UPDATE:

a) On the night of 20 December, further grenades exploded in Ngozi in northern Burundi. The Governor of Ngozi was killed in one of these incidents. One of the grenades was thrown through the window of the WFP residence in Ngozi, injuring a UNHCR logistics officer. Grenades were also thrown at the residences of the International Federation of the Red Cross and Oxfam/UK; no injuries reported.

b) All international relief staff are being evacuated from Ngozi and Kirundo today, 21 December, to Bujumbura: this includes MSF/Holland, IHA, Oxfam/UK, GTZ, an Italian NGO, the International Federation of the Red Cross, MSF/France and WFP Ngozi office (who also cover Kirundo). Some 12 national WFP staff will also be evacuated from Ngozi.

c) The eleven WFP leased trucks that were to have delivered food to the refugee camps in Ngozi on 22 December will no longer do so, as the security risk is high and implementing partners will not be present to make distributions.

d) WFP has temporarily halted all truck movements from Isaka. Current food stock level in Ngozi is 3,704 mt.

e) All activity by the UN, ICRC and NGOs in the interior of the country will be suspended or curtailed as a result of these attacks and those described below.

2.2 Prior to the events of 20 December, the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), the Belgian Red Cross, and Action International Contre la Faim (AICF) had already decided to evacuate all nonessential staff from Burundi to Nairobi, in response to a series of grenade attacks on their offices and residences in Gitega between 13-19 December. Also affected were OXFAM and MPDL, a Spanish NGO. Oxfam has closed its Gitega office for the present time. The Action Aid programme is now run by local staff only. The International Federation of the Red Cross suspended activities in the north on 18 December. In one of the grenade explosions, two expatriate staff members of AICF were injured and have been evacuated to France for medical treatment.

2.3 Tanzanian authorities have reinforced the closure of the border with Burundi as of 17 December, however, transit of humanitarian vehicles continues to be permitted. The area to the north of Giteranyi (Muyinga province) is off limits, and repatriation to Burundi from

Tanzania has been suspended.

2.4 Repatriation: no movement of returnees has taken place from Uvira through Gatumba since the closure of the Burundian border with Zaire on 8 December. The last repatriation from Tanzania took place on 5 December with 191 returnees from Tanzania. However, larger numbers of Rwandan refugees repatriated from the north of Burundi (Mugano camp in Muyinga province) to Rwanda on 19 December as a result of the insecurity in the area.

2.5 In Northern Burundi, on 15 December three WFP-leased vehicles came under attack in Kirundo province. The trucks, which were en route to Rukuramigabo refugee camp, were forcibly stopped and looted of 5 mt of beans and maize by members of the local population. Another incident occurred on 18 December, when a WFP delivery was being made to the same camp, this time accompanied by a military escort. Road was barricaded some 400 meters from the camp. As the military dismantled the barricade, some 3,000 members of the population started throwing rocks. Shooting broke out on both sides, leaving two dead, two injured and 50 arrested. Distribution to the refugees was delayed as a result.

2.6 These incidents follow the looting of 21 mt WFP commodities in Gashikanwa (Ngozi province) on 28 Nov. Due to high risks encountered throughout the north, WFP is insisting on military escorts to ensure security for WFP vehicles.

2.7 In Bubanza, in north-west Burundi, WFP and CARE will begin distribution this week to a total of 23,796 persons, of which 17,530 are IDPs and 6,266 reinstalled former IDPs at four points in Gihanga (southern Bubanza province). Problems had been faced in earlier attempts to assist the reinstalled population while not serving the nearby old displaced population, thus monthly distributions will be made with no discrimination among different groups. At only 15 km from Bujumbura, Gihanga remains the only accessible part of the entire Bubanza province.

2.8 Closure of the border with Zaire once again prevents deliveries of stock from Bujumbura to Bukavu. Delivery of commodities from Bujumbura direct to Uvira/Kamanyola also hampered. WFP Bujumbura is negotiating passage of trucks with immigration authorities.

3. RWANDA

3.1 Radio Rwanda reports that of the 18 NGOs whose activities had been suspended pending explanations to Ministry of Rehabilitation and Social Integration (MINIREISO) concerning their activities, nine have been reinstated. Of these nine, three NGOs are WFP implementing partners.

3.2 The International Tribunal which is judging war crimes in Rwanda began its first deliberations on 12 December in Arusha, Tanzania.

3.3 Two WFP staff and one DHA staff member were held at gunpoint in their house in Kigali on 12 December. The group stole two vehicles, seriously injuring the watchman.

3.4 The annual WFP/FAO crop and food supply mission ended this week. Results will be forthcoming soon.

3.5 Repatriation: During the past week, transit centres in Rwanda received a total of 1,553 returnees from the neighbouring countries. 639 returnees arrived in Gisenyi, 180 in Cynagugu and 136 in Butare (for a total of 955 from Zaire), 527 arrived from Burundi, and 71 arrived from Tanzania.

4. ZAIRE - GOMA

4.1 Another two mines were found on 19 December a few kilometres south of Kibumba by the Zairian Contingent mine clearing patrol. Katale camp was declared off limits from 17-18 December as Zairian authorities moved into the camp to make arrests of refugees charged with committing crimes in Zaire.

4.2 Relations between refugees and the local population in Kibumba remain tense.

4.3 The lack of funding which has led to the cancellation of the programme of firewood distributions in Kahindo and Katale has placed refugee women in these camps in danger as they are forced to forage further into the park for fuel. The number of reported rapes has increased dramatically since this decision was taken. A 12 year old girl disappeared on 13 December while looking for wood. A 16 year girl was found dead in the park area next to Katale.

4.4 Trucks using the Ishasha route during the reporting period delivered a total of 1,476 mt. of food supplies.

C. EAST AFRICA 2: HORN OF AFRICA

1. SOMALIA

1.1 Initial reports of WFP losses from the fire of 25 Nov in the north Mogadishu warehouse have been revised following further investigations. An SGS surveyor reported on 14 December that a total of 2,690 mt of commodities were destroyed by the fire. 683 mt have been salvaged (including 366 mt of locally purchased sorghum) and samples submitted for analysis to determine whether the grain is fit for human consumption.

D. WEST AFRICA

1. ANGOLA

1.1 As of 19 December, the first of three monthly dry ration distributions planned for the population in Likua was successfully completed. The operation was conducted jointly by Minars and UNITA with support from WFP. A beneficiary population of nearly 22,000 people were registered and received rations totalling nearly 250 mt.

1.2 On Friday, 15 December, a WFP cargo flight delivering humanitarian supplies to M'Banza Congo was forced by UNITA soldiers to remain in the city overnight until being released for departure early the next morning. Despite the aircraft's security clearance, UNITA soldiers reportedly told the aircraft crew that the plane was not allowed to fly to M'Banza Congo. Plane and crew members only allowed to leave after WFP intervention with UNITA through the joint commission.

1.3 For the second week in a row, WFP did not receive security clearance for convoys on the northern corridor.

1.4 This week, WFP received the French donation of 8,000 mt of maize at the port in Luanda. WFP is currently discharging 1,200 mt of CSB in Lobito. Arrival of 6,950 mt of maize in Lobito expected in immediate future.

1.5 WFP stocks in-country as of 18 December were 22,046 mt.

Over the period 11 to 17 December, the following quantities were delivered: by air, 657 mt; by road, 1,551 mt; Total: 2,208 mt

E. FORMER YUGOSLAVIA

1. Bosnia-Herzegovina

1.1 On 20 December, at a high level donor conference convened in Brussels, WFP outlined its commitment to continue to provide food aid to certain vulnerable groups during the resettlement and reconstruction process. The meeting was organized by the European Commission and the World Bank, and 28 donor nations were represented.

1.2 The cease-fire continued to hold throughout Bosnia-Herzegovina, including Sarajevo, with no serious firing incidents reported in the entire region in the last week.

1.3 Responsibility for keeping the peace in Bosnia-Herzegovina was formally transferred from UN forces to NATO on 20 December. During the week, NATO forces and equipment continued to move into Bosnia-Herzegovina. NATO has encountered no resistance or obstructions from the parties to the peace agreement. Both WFP-organized commercial convoys and WFP-supplied UNHCR convoys continued to deliver food aid without problems throughout Bosnia-Herzegovina, including Sarajevo, Bihac, and Gorazde. Projected food aid requirements for the month of December have already been met in Zenica and Tuzla. WFP has built-up 6,800 mt of winter contingency stocks in central Bosnia, and deliveries to beneficiaries will not be negatively affected by any shortage that may occur in Metkovic in early January.

1.4 The US has confirmed that it will continue to be a major supporter of the food aid relief effort through WFP, and has announced a contribution of USD 50 million worth of basic commodities for Bosnia-Herzegovina, delivery of which will begin in early 1996, including an estimated total of 82,300 mt wheat grain, wheat flour, pulses and vegetable oil. Arrivals of this food aid are planned from February through April.

1.5 Sarajevo remained quiet during the reporting week, with only one isolated sniping incident with no casualties reported. With the improvement in the weather, the rate of food aid deliveries improved and civilian traffic in and out of the city increased. During the reporting week, approx. 800 mt of food aid arrived in the city on nine convoys. An additional 275 mt were brought in on 15 flights via the airlift from Ancona.

F. DEMOCRATIC PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF KOREA, DPRK.

1. UPDATE

1.1 Results of the FAO/WFP Crop and Food Supply Assessment mission will be released soon, in the form of a Special Alert. The Alert warns that unless substantial food aid is provided to the DPRK, severe food shortages and starvation would affect millions of people in the coming months.

1.2 Detailed field monitoring reports from the WFP operation show that careful registration of beneficiaries and records of distributions of WFP food assistance have been made by local officials. WFP monitors have been able to make random visits to homes of beneficiaries and report that while the government has been able to quickly provide new housing and basic household equipment to flood victims, food supply at the household level depends almost totally on decreasing government rations, which WFP food has been able to supplement for a short period of time to the worst affected population. A total of 363,652 beneficiaries were reached with one month's ration. A final report has been received on the distribution of the 5,140 mt of rice under WFP Emergency Operation 5710.

1.3 Donors are urged to make further donations to WFP's appeal issued in early October. Funds allocated from the WFP International Emergency Fund Reserve (IEFR) for the purchase of the 5,140 mt of rice delivered have to be replenished, and additional contributions for the provision of the remaining 15,110 mt of rice and 675 mt of vegetable oil are urgently needed if severe food shortages among those most affected by the floods of

the past summer are to be avoided this winter.

G. IRAQ

1. UPDATE

1.1 Insecurity halted WFP distributions in the northern "autonomous" region this week. During a distribution in Kalar collective town in the Governorate of Sulemaniyah, those of the population who had not been targeted for food assistance protested angrily and attacked the UNCGI escort vehicles which were forced to withdraw from the area. The protesters also demonstrated in front of the resident and office of the representative of the Governor. One person was killed and three injured as a result of the violence. Discussions are being held with local authorities and leaders.

1.2 The WFP/UNICEF/Ministry of Health malnutrition programme has been expanded to an additional 4 hospitals in Baghdad. Under this project, seriously malnourished children admitted to hospital are rehabilitated over a 21 day period. In addition, the WFP "under five" project plans to address the serious malnutrition situation, identified by assessment missions earlier this year, by targeting the most needy children, before the situation of the children warrants hospitalisation.

1.3 Conditions of life for the Iraqi population continue to deteriorate. The WFP operation in Iraq is still seriously underfunded and donors are urged to make contributions on an urgent basis.

(End WFP Emergency Report No. 51 - December 22, 1995)



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