



World Food
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The Food Aid Organization of the United Nations

26 October 2007

World Food Programme

Darfur Video News Release

Length: 2'53"

El Geneina, West Darfur, Sudan

Shot 24/25 October 2007

El Geneina, Darfur, October ,, 2007

23 World Food Programme trucks leave WFP warehouse in El Geneina, Darfur loaded with 260 metric tons of sorghum, lentils, sugar, salt and vegetable oil – enough food to feed the more than 15,000 nomads, local residents and internally displaced people (IDPs) who have fled to the town of Masteri, south of El Geneina.

Masteri is only 50 kilometres away, but the drive will take about two hours and is fraught with uncertainty. All the roads in state of West Darfur are at high-risk for carjackings. "Insecurity forces all of our staff to travel to the field by helicopter. But the food still needs to get there by truck, and our drivers face banditry – or worse. Only about 10 days ago, three drivers were killed in two separate incidents," says Emilia Casella, WFP spokesperson in Sudan.

Masteri is just 20 kilometres from the Chadian border. Just south of the town is an area where fighting has recently taken place. Still, the food must get through, or WFP and its partner non-governmental organization, Save the Children US, will not be able to distribute this month's food ration.

Chad:

-In the past weeks, the security situation has been tense in Chad, particularly in the east posing a serious constraint to humanitarian operations in the region. Inter-ethnic conflicts have intensified and the Government of Chad declared a State of Emergency on 16 October for 12 days in three Regions (Ouaddai, Wadi Fira and BET) in Eastern and Northern Chad (technically ending in two days' time - background info : President Deby has signed a peace agreement with four armed groups yesterday (25th) which might lead to the uplift of the state of emergency).

-Additional resources amounting to US\$68 million are urgently required for WFP to cover food aid needs through the end of 2008 for Sudanese refugees, IDPs and crisis affected host population in eastern Chad. Funding needs to be confirmed as soon as possible to ensure that the food reaches Chad by June 2008 (date of the next rainy season - the roads will be blocked and it will be too late to deliver food to the camps).

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-WFP is providing emergency assistance for 230,000 Sudanese refugees, 150,000 IDPs in eastern Chad and some 46,000 refugees from the Central African Republic in southern Chad. WFP plans to assist approximately 150,000 beneficiaries among the local populations in eastern Chad who have been affected by the crisis. This will be through asset-creating activities and other targeted interventions.

-The WFP-managed United Nations Humanitarian Air Service (UNHAS), which provides a vital air link and evacuation in case of emergency for over 70 UN agencies and NGOs, is also seeking additional resources of US\$3 million to ensure continuous support and increase capacity, flights and access to new IDP sites in eastern Chad.

Shotlist

00:00-00:15

Aerials from helicopter - Convoy of 23 WFP trucks, carrying a total 260 metric tons of WFP food assistance.

00:15-00:30

Shots of the convoy heading toward the IDP camp in Masteri.

00:30-00:49

SOT - Emilia Casella, WFP Public Information Officer

“Insecurity forces all of our staff to travel to the field by helicopter. But the food still needs to get there by truck, and our drivers face banditry – or worse. Only about 10 days ago, three drivers were killed in two separate incidents. We're hoping for a peaceful, negotiated solution to this crisis, so our staff can go out and safely do their jobs.”

00:49-00:57

WFP helicopter taking off.

00:57-01:15

GV of WFP Geneina warehouse compound– Shots of the convoy leaving WFP fleet compound and military trucks.

01:15-01:20

WFP truck driver driving

01:20-01:30

SOT - Zakaria Elhaj, WFP driver

“People talk about the danger on the roads. People are scared every day. But if we stop taking food, the people would die. They are our people? They are our people,” he says . A father of nine and resident of Geneina, Elhaj, 38, has been working as a WFP driver for three years and says he does not intend to stop.”

01:30-01:40

IDP camp in Masteri, a town on the Chadian border, about 50 kilometres south of Geneina. GV of camp, huts.



01:40-02:17

A woman feeding her family and she and her children eating outside their hut.

Chad – Shot 1 September 2007

02:17-02:22 Abeche

WFP vehicle crosses flooded area.

02:22-02:53 Goz Beida (Eastern Chad)

GV of displaced women and children.

END