The World Food Programme supplies food rations to malnourished children in centres such as the Kiganga medical centre in North Kivu in the Democratic Republic of Congo.
At this therapeutic feeding centre children are treated for severe malnutrition with medicines, re-hydration salts and specially fortified food such as corn-soya blends, beans and oil.
Conditions in this makeshift compound in the Rutshuru area are basic and overstretched due to the swelling population.
Due to continuous raids of armed groups during which people are kidnapped or killed, the families left their villages and fled to safer areas. Food distribution centres hand out maize, beans and salt to these villagers.
Almost 800,000 people are displaced in North Kivu and unable to return home because of increased fighting.
Lunch time at a primary school in the Rutshuru area, where children receive a nutritious meal once a day thanks to a School Feeding Program run by the World Food Programme.
A daily ration for a displaced person would consist of 400 grams of maize meal; 120 grams of beans; 20 grams of oil and five grams of salt.
Thousands of young children were forced to join armed militias and were taken from their families. They will stay at the UNICEF Centre in Goma until they can be united with their families.
Feeding the most vulnerable is a priority. Reducing hunger and malnutrition is also a prerequisite for long-term development.
For 25 cents a day, a child can be fed in a World Food Programme School Feeding Program, encouraging the child’s family to send them to school and receive an education. In July 2007, the Government of Canada committed $125 million to the WFP for similar food programs for children in African schools.
Markings on someone’s hand indicate that they have received food from a distribution centre.
At least 1.3 million children under the age of five are affected by acute malnutrition in the Democratic Republic of Congo.
In the DRC rape is used to terrorize, humiliate and punish the enemy, it is part of daily reality. Tens of thousands of women and young girls were raped during military operations.
A happy worker at the World Food Programme food warehouse where bags of maize are piled high.