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RENAULT TRUCKS ON ASSIGNMENT IN AFRICA FOR THE WORLD FOOD PROGRAMME

To help the World Food Programme fulfill its missions, Renault Trucks is deploying a mobile training team in five East African countries for three months to train WFP mechanics in the most advanced maintenance and servicing techniques. An assignment which highlights Renault Trucks' commitment to the WFP, and an adventure which enables trucks to make a direct contribution to helping some of the world's poorest people.

The World Food Programme is a United Nations agency whose main purpose is to combat hunger in the world and provide food to people in some of the poorest parts of the globe. It goes without saying that trucks play a pivotal role in the associated logistics system, bringing them into direct contact with those having the most urgent need. There are over one hundred Renault Trucks vehicles in the WFP's fleet, invariably carrying food supplies to their destination under the harshest conditions imaginable.

To make their work easier, Renault Trucks is doing even more. The manufacturer knows that well maintained vehicles benefit from greater mobility and can perform their function better. A Kerax 6x6 configured as a mobile training unit and a team of technicians have therefore been sent out to instruct the WFP's mechanics in East Africa, passing on their expertise in HGV maintenance and repair. From Kenya to Uganda, Southern Sudan, Ruanda, the Democratic Republic of Congo and finally Burundi, this adventure will last for three months, during which the WFP's staff will be trained practically on site.

With this initiative, Renault Trucks demonstrates its determination to contribute to the development of the African continent with which it has very close ties. By making its expertise as an HGV manufacturer available to the World Food Programme, Renault Trucks is asserting the key role played by trucks in the poorest regions of the world, where they often provide a vital link in the effort to save lives.

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A Kerax 6x6 on an unusual mission puts to sea on a cargo ship heading for Mombasa, Kenya.

Several months' intensive preparation went into organizing this unusual operation. It involved choosing the right vehicle, converting its bodywork into a mobile training unit and mobilizing technicians, drivers and instructors to define a customised training programme. The commitment of Renault Trucks and its staff fully reflects the importance of the mission they have been entrusted with: to pass on their knowledge of trucks and their maintenance to the World Food Programme's teams of African mechanics so that deliveries of food supplies to the poor and needy can be maintained under the best possible conditions.

This mobile training unit will be covering 5,000 kilometres from Mombasa (Kenya) to Bujumbura (Burundi) to train the WFP's local mechanics in the field. The Renault Trucks instructors will be carrying out this mission with a Kerax 6x6 fitted with all the instructional equipment and tools needed to provide participants with the skills they need to keep trucks in service, whatever the circumstances.

The Kerax was an obvious choice for this mission. It is a vehicle acknowledged for its robustness and mobility under all circumstances, well-known for its prowess on construction sites all over the world and for its performance on expeditions such as the Silk Road in 2005 and the Cape to Cape as well as on rally-raids such as the Dakar.

Its body is perfectly suited to carrying all types of equipment in perfect safety – a key requisite, since its mission involves transporting specially prepared mechanical units used for instructional purposes during the training given to the WFP mechanics.

From November to December, five training sessions in English or French will be organized at the World Food Programme's main bases in sub-Saharan Africa: Kampala in Uganda, Juba in South Sudan, Goma in the Democratic Republic of Congo, Kigali in Rwanda and Bujumbura in Burundi.

The World Food Programme - Key figures:

90 million people supplied with food
Active in 74 countries
A workforce of 11,000 worldwide
3,000 warehouses
40 ships
60 aircraft
5,000 trucks (out of which the WFP owns 700)

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