



Executive Director
James T. Morris

World Food Programme



Biography

James T. Morris became the tenth Executive Director of the United Nations World Food Programme at the beginning of April 2002.

As leader of WFP, Mr Morris oversees the world's largest food aid organization, which in 2004 fed 113 million people in 80 countries with contributions totalling US\$2.2 billion. WFP reaches out to hungry people who cannot help themselves -- victims of war and natural disasters, families affected by HIV/AIDS and orphans who have lost their parents to the pandemic, and school children in poor communities.

In July 2002, Mr Morris was appointed UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan's Special Envoy for Humanitarian Needs in Southern Africa, a region which continues to be gripped by a major food emergency. In 2003, he successfully guided the World Food Programme in carrying out the largest humanitarian operation in history, feeding 26 million Iraqis. WFP's funding and operations have grown to unprecedented levels as a result of chronic food shortages in sub-Saharan Africa and the Democratic People's Republic of Korea.

For over 36 years, Mr Morris has combined a distinguished career of business, philanthropic and humanitarian leadership with a personal life of public service. Both his career and his voluntary activities have reflected a commitment to improving the lives of others with a special interest in young people at risk and giving something back to his city, his country and the international community.

After serving six years in city government in Indianapolis, Indiana, primarily as chief of staff for mayor Richard Lugar, Mr Morris moved to the Lilly Endowment, Inc. in 1973. He began as director of community development for the Endowment, one of the world's largest charitable foundations. Mr Morris moved to vice president, executive vice president and then president, and served in that role for six years until 1989. His principal interests have been in building communities, serving vulnerable children at risk and leadership development.

Mr Morris then became chairman and chief executive officer of IWC Resources Corporation and Indianapolis Water Company. Under his leadership, IWC grew to a multi-million dollar holding company. He focused on employee development through recognition programs, diversification, human relations and educational opportunities. The company experienced substantial growth in both regulated and unregulated areas.

While serving in these leadership roles and on several corporate boards, Mr Morris was affiliated with the United States Olympic Committee as treasurer and as chairman of the audit and ethics committee, was chairman of the NCAA Foundation, was a member of the Board of Governors of the American Red Cross, and was chairman of the Board of Trustees of Indiana University. He has contributed time and guidance to many civic and community organizations.

Mr Morris earned his BA in Political Science from Indiana University and an MBA from Butler University. He has received 11 honorary degrees including the most recent from the University of Notre Dame in May of 2005.

Mr Morris is married to Jacqueline Harrell Morris. They have three children and six grandchildren.

Updated: 20 June 2005