



TV UNITED NATIONS NATIONS UNIES

U.N. IN ACTION

Week of 12 April 2004

Programme No. 900

Length: 3'06"

UN FEEDS NICARAGUA'S MOST VULNERABLE CITIZENS

VIDEO

RURAL SCENE (13")

DOÑA GARCIA GROOMING
CHILDREN (11.5")

DOÑA GARCIA ON-CAMERA
(4.5")

MEN LOADING SACKS ONTO
HORSES (21")

DOÑA GARCIA SERVING FOOD
(25")

AUDIO

NARRATION

Nicaragua has been hit by poor economic conditions and persistent drought. Taken together, they've led to widespread rural poverty in this Central American country.

On weekdays, Doña Garcia gets her children ready for school. But with her husband away looking for work and seven kids to feed, her life is a struggle.

GARCIA: (in Spanish):

"I'm a single mother and have no one to help me."

NARRATION

While the children prepare for their classes, sacks of donated food are delivered to the school's kitchen. Families here are subsistence farmers. But, years of uncertain rainfall has meant crops have failed and remaining food supplies do not provide an adequate diet for those most vulnerable: women and children.

Doña, along with other mothers from the village, cooks a nutritious meal from food partly provided by the U.N. World Food Programme (WFP). As in many

countries where children are at risk of malnutrition, Nicaragua's school children receive nutrition supplements so they can not only grow physically, but also develop intellectually.

CHEDIEK WORKING IN OFFICE
(5")

Jorge Chediek is a United Nations coordinator in Nicaragua.

JORGE CHEDIEK ON-CAMERA
(8")

CHEDIEK:

"It is absolutely critical that people have access to nutrition from the earliest stage of life."

PHOTO OF MALNOURISHED
CHILD (29.5")

NARRATION

Eighteen-month-old Dilcia was taken to the Child Nutritional Recovery Centre in nearby Matagalpa. She suffers from a serious respiratory infection, as well as diarrhoea and tuberculosis brought on by her weakened condition. Here, children ranging in age from one month to eleven years are helped to recover. Thanks to medical care and food supplements, Dilcia is making good progress, says Centre Director, Adriana Bracamonte...

ADRIANA BRACAMONTE ON-
CAMERA (18.5")

BRACAMONTE:

"Her improvement is remarkable. She has become more lively. When she first arrived, she was very depressed. Now she is very well."

DOÑA GARCIA AND KIDS
WORKING IN GARDEN (18”)

NARRATION

In exchange for their work cooking the school lunches, Doña Garcia and other mothers in the village are given seeds and tools by the World Food Programme. It helps them to grow vegetables to supplement the family’s nutrition. WFP Project Coordinator, Sabrina Quesada...

OVER HER

QUESADA:

“With these projects they obtain bigger harvests from traditional plants in their gardens. This improves their food.”

SABRINA QUESADA ON-
CAMERA (11”)

NARRATION

Here in Nicaragua and around the world, the UN is helping those most vulnerable - women and children. For Doña Garcia and her family, it’s support that makes the difference between mere survival – and hope for a better future.

DOÑA GARCIA AND CHILD
CARRY VEGETABLES (15”)

U.N. LOGO (12”)

This report was prepared by Richard Sydenham for the United Nations.