



TV

UNITED NATIONS NATIONS UNIES

U.N. IN ACTION

Week of 3 April 2006
Programme No. 1003
Length: 2'33"

ECHO/UNHCR – EMERGENCY TRAINING AND PREPAREDNESS

VIDEO

W/S – SOLDIERS IN TRAINING

SOLDIERS TRAINING WITH
CIVILIANS

SOPHIE MULLER, UNHCR

MULLER ON-CAMERA

AUDIO

NARRATION

The Swedish countryside is an unlikely location for a humanitarian crisis, but it is ideal training ground for aid workers about to be deployed in emergency spots. (9)

Several times a year, selected staff of the United Nations refugee agency, the UNHCR, go through a week-long training course to prepare them for emergency deployment. (10)

Sophie Muller is a legal officer at UNHCR headquarters in Geneva. She joined UNHCR in 2001 and until now has had little field experience. (9.5)

MULLER:

"I now think that I could be useful because I know a bit more of what I could be faced with." (6)

NARRATION

UN STAFF IN CLASS/TRAINING
SESSION

The ability to respond quickly and efficiently to emergencies is at the core of UNHCR's work, a priority supported by the European Commission's humanitarian arm, ECHO. (10)

ARRION:

MICHEL ARRION, EUROPEAN
COMMISSION, HEAD OF UNIT
DG HUMANITARIAN AID ON-
CAMERA

"We have heard too many times that the donors, and the UN, and the international community was slow responding to the needs of the population and we want to improve that." (11)

NARRATION

SOPHIE IN AIRCRAFT

Only a few weeks later, Sophie is on her way to her first real emergency. She and other UNHCR staff are rushed to help thousands of Togolese refugees fleeing the violence that flared up in the aftermath of contested presidential elections. (15)

SOPHIE WALKING THROUGH
COME CAMP

Sophie is in charge of Come camp, with a capacity of some 1,400 people and already full. The logistics of running a camp for so many people are enormous – from shelter and water to security and food, the work goes on late into the night. (15)

SOPHIE ADDRESSING
REFUGEES

Training can never prepare for all situations, such as coping with the anger of refugees for whom no place can be found in the camp. (7)

NARRATION

REFUGEE ASKING SOPHIE
QUESTION

But despite all the hard work and difficult moments, Sophie has no regrets. (4)

SOPHIE ON-CAMERA

SOPHIE:

"This is an amazing experience, being in an emergency is so rewarding -- it's extremely rewarding. There are all the smiles, there are all the children running around mentioning my name and trying to tell me whatever - it's unbelievably nice, no – I love it." (17)

LOGO

This report was prepared by Marie-Allen for the United Nations. (4)