



TV

UNITED NATIONS NATIONS UNIES

U.N. IN ACTION

Week of 2 October 2006

Programme No.1029

Length: 3'58"

MALAWI – BETWEEN FAILED HARVESTS AND BUMPER CROPS

VIDEO

VILLAGE OF BANGULA

FARMER SMARG AND WIFE
WALK TO THEIR FIELDS

SMARG AND DINA LOOKING AT
UNDEVELOPED MAIZE

SMARG LIMBU, FARMER
ON-CAMERA

SOUNDBITE DINA DINYERO,
SMARG'S WIFE

AUDIO

NARRATION

The village of Bangula in Southern Malawi looks lush and green. But for the second year in a row the rains have come too late and farmer Smarg Limbu and his wife Dina have lost their winter harvest. (13")

In their district, 75,000 farmers face the same problem – without winter crops the resources are going to stretch very thin until the next harvest. (10")

SMARG LIMBU: (In Chichiwa)

"We are so desperate. We end up going into the river to do some fishing and we hope that NGOs and other well wishers will assist us with food." (8")

DINA DINYERO: (In Chichiwa)

"I will go and look for firewood, which I can sell for extra income." (3")

NARRATION

WFP WAREHOUSE IN BANGULA

The increased demand for food is beginning to force maize prices up on the market. Many poor people can only meet their needs through international assistance. The World Food Programme, the UN's food emergency agency, operates five big distribution centres in Malawi, where almost 5 million people are at risk of hunger and malnutrition. (20")

SMARG AND OTHER PEOPLE
WAITING FOR FOOD
ASSISTANCE

Smarg is lining up for food assistance. The World Food Programme staff and NGOs are using the waiting time to educate the crowd about HIV/AIDS... Seventeen percent of the population is infected and in many villages there are fewer healthy men and women left to do the hard work of planting and harvesting. AIDS and drought combined have left their marks on Malawi's food security. (28")

CHILDREN IN THE CROWD

Children are most at risk, says World Food Programme Representative Dominico Scalpelli. (4")

DOMINCO SCALPELLI, WORLD
FOOD PROGRAMME
REPRESENTATIVE IN MALAWI

SCALPELLI:

"I was in Chikwawa and was told that 30 percent of the children were dying, mainly because of HIV/AIDS, pneumonia and tuberculosis. If you add malnutrition to that, then it is a killer." (13")

STUDENTS GET PORRIDGE AT
SCHOOL BREAK

NARRATION:

To prevent malnutrition, porridge break is a vital part of every school day in Bangula. In Malawi, 400,000 children are enrolled in school feeding programmes and wherever lunch is served, the dropout rates have gone down dramatically.

Enrolment of girls has even increased by 38 percent. (18")

BUMPER CROPS IN OTHER
AREAS

While Southern Malawi has one food crisis after another, some parts of the country experience their first bumper crops. Different farming methods could make a difference for drought stricken Bangula too. (11")

SOUNDBITE DOMENICO
SCALPELLI

SCALPELLI:

"Last year before we started distribution, we started work for food projects with rehabilitation of irrigation canals, so that people don't have to rely 100% on rain, with foot pumps for water. Those people had 3 or 4 harvests in one year."

(25")

SMARG CARRIES FOOD HOME
ON BICYCLE

NARRATION:

But this year, with the new crisis, all resources were diverted again to nutritional rehabilitation and to saving lives. (8").

SMARG'S DAUGHTER COOKS
DINNER

Smarg's daughter is preparing maize dumplings with beans for dinner. For the large family, the ration will only last about three weeks and donor money is running short to continue food distribution for much longer. (13")

LOGO

This report was prepared by the United Nations.

