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CAMEROON: DRIVE AGAINST MALNUTRITION

VIDEO

VILLAGE OF TCHONCHI

MABOULE MARIE POUNDS GRAIN

PREPARING GRAIN FOR COOKING

MARIE COOKS WITH BABY

SARA DJANATOU WALKS

VILLAGE

VILLAGERS

AUDIO

NARRATION

Daily life in the village of Tchonchi in northern Cameroon revolves around preparing the main meal of the day. It's usually a dish of dried sorghum mixed with water. It's not a balanced diet but poverty and a lack of knowledge on the need for protein and vitamin-rich food has resulted in soaring malnutrition rates in this part of the country. Fifty-one thousand children die every year in Cameroon from poor nutrition – many of them in the northern region. (28)

Volunteer community health worker, Sara Djanatou, has made it her mission to educate villagers on eating more healthily. She travels up to 15 kilometres a day – going from house to house to spread key messages about nutrition under a programme supported by UNICEF and the Ministry of Health. (18)

MARIE WELCOMES HEALTH
WORKER

She visits Maboule Marie, a mother of 12, to check on the progress of her children. Her youngest, a set of twins, are severely malnourished because they haven't been fed a balanced diet. (11.5)

MARIE'S SMALL CHILDREN WITH
HEALTH WORKER

The effects have been crippling. At the age of two the girls are still unable to walk. Maboule herself is also undernourished. A vital part of Sara's work is to teach families about the importance of eating a variety of food. (15)

HEALTH WORKER EDUCATES
VILLAGERS

It's common in this region for villagers to survive on one grain-based meal a day. Vegetables are limited and they can't afford to buy meat. (9)

MABOULE MARIE ON CAMERA

MABOULE MARIE: (Local Dialect) **F**

"It's really difficult for me to feed my large family. We just can't afford good meals. I pray to God that I don't have any more children." (8)

MARIE TAKES HER CHILDREN TO
HEALTH CENTER

NARRATION

Maboule takes her children regularly to a local UNICEF-supported health centre, following advice from Sara. Here, they're

WOMEN FEED CHILDREN PROTEIN
MEAL

given energy and protein rich food fortified with vitamins. As a result the twins are steadily gaining weight. (15)

UNICEF's Nutritionist in Cameroon, Denis Garnier. (4)

DENIS GARNIER ON CAMERA

DENIS GARNIER: (French) **M**
"In this northern region we have 100,000 malnourished children with rapid weight loss. The programme, which covers 11 out of the 41 districts here, has made it possible to treat 5,000 to 10,000 children. We are looking for funds to scale up the programme." (16)

BABIES BEING TREATED

NARRATION
For more severe cases life saving treatment is available at the local hospital. A team of UNICEF trained doctors are able to treat complicated cases by providing emergency therapeutic feeding. (13)

HEALTH WORKER PREPARES FOOD

CHILDREN EAT

Doctors here say scaling up the feeding programme in the north is essential in the fight against malnutrition and key to giving Cameroonian children a healthier future. (10)

UN LOGO

This report was prepared by Ash Sweeting, John Nkuo and Salma Zulfigar for the United Nations.