

UN IN ACTION

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CHAD: MALNUTRITION

<u>VIDEO</u> <u>AUDIO</u>

NARRATION:

MEN ON CAMELS IN DESERT, It's a long hot journey through the desert to get

to the nearest market for villagers in Chad's

HORSE CARCASS ON THE GROUND northwestern Kanem region. Changing weather

patterns here have led to severe droughts crippling local agriculture and destroying

livestock. (14)

TWO MEN FILL BAG WITH RICE A recent harvest was a disaster – yielding only

enough grain to feed the region for two weeks.

Severe food shortages combined with

unbalanced diets and poor child care practices have led to soaring malnutrition rates in Kanem.

(15)

MALNOURISHED BOY LYING ON A

TWO WOMEN FEED ADAM

BLANKET

Adam Abdulai, just over a year old, was in

critical condition when he was brought into this

UNICEF-supported therapeutic feeding centre

in the district hospital of Mao. Here, he's

receiving emergency care and is fed milk every

3 hours. A week after arriving at the center,

Adam's health is steadily improving. (21)

WS OF ROOM WITH OTHER WOMEN FEEDING CHILDREN His mother said she ate only porridge made from millet everyday during her pregnancy, leaving her too weak to care for her son properly. (7.5)

ADAM'S FACE, SMILING

Adam's mother and grandmother stay with him at the feeding centre day and night. Adam's grandmother, Hawa Abdulai. (8)

HAWA ABDULAI ON CAMERA

HAWA ABDULAI: (Kanembou) "For the last 10 years all of our hard work in our fields has produced nothing because there has been little rain..." (5.5)

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NARRATION:

ROOM WITH WOMEN AND **CHILDREN**

More than a dozen children are admitted at this centre every day, says Head of Mao District Health Services, Dr. Mekonyo Kolmain Gedeon. (9.5)

CHILD DRINKS FROM GLASS

DR. MEKONYO KOLMAIN GEDEON ON CAMERA

DR. GEDEON: "The severely malnourished children with complications are referred to this centre. Those that don't respond to treatment are also referred to this centre. If this centre did not exist the situation would be catastrophic for the district health of Mao." (12.5)

(French Dialect)

NARRATION:

TWO WOMEN FAN INFANTS

Rapid response is key in tackling malnutrition. UNICEF Representative in Chad, Dr.Marzio Babille. (7)

DR. MARZIO BABILLE ON CAMERA

DR. MARZIO BABILLE: (English) **M**"At the moment, we do have 2800 children
benefiting from the program. And a very low
mortality, because as I said, while severe acute
malnutrition is a medical emergency, the rapid
takeover of the problems can save lives with the

use of appropriate technology and medical

NARRATION:

care." (17.5)

DESERT

CRYING CHILD BEING MEASURED

INFANT BEING EXAMINED

DOCTOR PULLING OUT PLUMPY
NUT PACKETS

INFANT BEING WEIGHED / CU OF UNICEF SCALE

WOMEN WITH INFANTS

ZARA HASSAN SCOOPS UP SAND, WHILE TALKING TO CAMERA Getting help to remote areas is critical in the village of Barrah, 20 kilometres from Mao. A UNICEF-supported clinic provides monitoring and treatment for severely malnourished children. (12)

Zara Hassan comes here every week with her malnourished 2 year old to receive supplies of plumpy nut, a high protein, high energy peanut paste fortified with vitamins and minerals. The child is still three kilos underweight, but showing signs of improvement. (17)

For now, emergency food aid is all she has to keep her child alive, says Zara. (5)

"Nothing grows here. The sand has taken over and there is nothing left. The soil has gone and

(Gourane)

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the land is now covered with sand. The ground

is now bad." (9)

ZARA HASSAN:

NARRATION:

PANNING - TREES TO LETTUCE IN The only patch of land left for farming is the

FIELD, TO WATER PIPE, TO SMALL WATERWAY

MEN SWEEP THE FIELD /
BAGS UNLOAD FROM TRUCK /
WOMEN AND CHILDREN

Oasis. Most food items are transported into Mao leading to huge prices increases - and leaving thousands unable to feed their families. Unless food aid arrives in time, more children will be at risk of becoming severely malnourished. (20.5)

UN LOGO

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