



TV

# UNITED NATIONS NATIONS UNIES

U.N. IN ACTION

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Week of 19 January 2004

Programme No. 888

Length: 3'05"

## FOOD SECURITY IN NORTH KOREA

### VIDEO

MALNOURISHED CHILDREN (22")

These are the faces of hunger – children who, day after day, do not get the food they need to be healthy and grow. These malnourished boys and girls are the tragic evidence of North Korea's desperate need for food. Four out of every ten children here suffer from chronic malnutrition.

OX-CART/FARM (11")

Some 6.5 million North Koreans – almost as many people as the city of London – will need food assistance this year. The elderly are particularly hard hit.

BAD CROP (19")

One reason for the continuing famine: the country simply cannot grow enough food to feed itself. Severe bouts of drought have thwarted efforts to increase agricultural output. For the ordinary North Korean the price of food continues to soar well above wages.

MAIZE (8")

Sixty percent of household income is now spent on food rations. For many, even basic staples are out of reach.

TOWN/HARVEST (24.5")

Harvests improved this past year but North Korea

still cannot feed its hungry. So international organizations increased food aid and helped reduce malnutrition levels in the country. For many years, the World Food Programme – or WFP – has been helping to bridge the gap between food prices and real wages. Its Executive Director is James Morris.

JAMES MORRIS ON CAMERA  
(18”)

MORRIS:

“The good news is that we have made extraordinary gains in terms of the health and nutrition of very young children in North Korea. The bad news is that we are at risk of losing the gains that we have made.”

THRESHING MACHINE ETC.  
(10”)

The World Food Programme is now being forced to cut rations for the elderly because of lack of funds. Cutbacks can mean the difference between life and death for some people.

MORRIS ON CAMERA  
(23”)

MORRIS:

“We have an urgent appeal, an emergency appeal to our donors for cash. When people give us food it takes a long period of time to get there. If we have cash, we are able to buy locally and regionally and we can condense the delivery-distribution time period.”

HARVEST/CHILDREN  
(24”)

Some donors are concerned about corruption in the distribution pipeline. But the results of a nutrition survey indicate that food may be

reaching those most in need: children. The study found a marked improvement in nutritional health among children. Those gains may be lost and starvation may again increase without a renewed commitment to food aid for North Korea.

UN LOGO (20")

This report was prepared by Mary Ferreira for the United Nations.