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U.N. IN ACTION

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Programme No. 890

Length: 3'28"

THE WFP SCHOOL FEEDING PROGRAMME IN MALAWI

VIDEO

AUDIO

NARRATION

SCHOOL (9")

It's the last day of school at the Mawelo Primary school in Lilongwe, Malawi.

CELEBRATION/
PRIZE SHOTS (13")

It's also a day of recognition for the school's outstanding students. The ones with the best marks are rewarded with notebooks and pens, even cash awards.

CHILDREN WAITING IN LINE (17")

But every day, all the students are given something extra with the daily lessons. At mid-morning, they get a hot meal of porridge made from soy and micronutrients. For many of them, it's the only meal they'll have the entire day.

CHILDREN EATING FOOD IN THE
YARD (23.5")

The meal is part of the U.N.'s World Food Programme School Feeding project. Since its introduction in 1999, the Mawelo Primary School has seen enrolment of both boys and girls soar from a couple of hundred to nearly 1300. Homester Kamodzi is the headmaster.

HOMESTER KAMODZI ON
CAMERA (10")

KAMODZI:

"This food makes them healthy, gives them energy.
Therefore makes them succeed in their studies."

GIRLS GETTING IN LINE TO GET
TAKE-HOME RATIONS (13")

NARRATION

WFP also provides each family with take-home
rations of maize and beans – a reward for
completing at least 18 days of classes a month.

DISTRIBUTING TAKE-HOME
RATIONS (22.5")

Take-home food is a big incentive in rural Malawi,
an impoverished country in Southeast Africa. Here
most girls remain uneducated. Typically, they work
the fields and get married at an early age. Gerald
van Dijk is the WFP Resident Representative in
Malawi.

GERALD VAN DIJK ON CAMERA
(15")

VAN DIJK:

"We would like to increase the quality of education
and get more children to the schools. This is why
we started the School Feeding Programme."

FOOD STORAGE ROOM (10")

NARRATION

The food comes from donor countries around the
world. The two biggest are the United States and
the European Union.

COOKING, WASHING PLATES
(13)

A local committee, drawn from the community,
supervises the School Feeding programme. Both
women and men cook and serve the food and wash
up after meals.

GIRLS PLAYING BASKETBALL
(16)

The results of their efforts are plain to see. After a few weeks of meals, students begin to put on weight and their energy levels rise noticeably. They take more interest in extra curricular activities like basketball.

CHILDREN IN CLASSROOM (13")

WFP is also working with other UN agencies to address Malawi's chronic shortage of primary school teachers and is helping to find funding for school equipment and materials.

VILLAGE SHOTS (24")

Today, children in Malawi all too often come to class looking for a meal first and education second.

GIRLS DANCING

No matter what gets them into the classroom, keeping them there offers them their best chance for a better future.

LOGO (20")

This report was prepared by Kamil Taha and Yi Zhou for the United Nations.