



# TV UNITED NATIONS NATIONS UNIES

## U.N. IN ACTION

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Week of 10 May 2004

Programme No. 904

Length: 3'20"

### THE BATTLE AGAINST CHRONIC HUNGER IN ETHIOPIA

#### VIDEO

CHILDREN RECEIVING MEDICAL  
ATTENTION (12")

CLINIC/DOCTORS (13")

FARMING (28")

#### AUDIO

This tiny 2-year-old boy weighs only about 15 pounds or six kilos. He's lost his eyesight to measles. Years of chronic malnutrition have taken their toll.

He is only one of thousands of children in Ethiopia who are tragic victims of a continuing food crisis, made worse by the poverty that pervades this African nation.

In southern parts of the country, farmers have been hard hit by recurring episodes of drought. Particularly alarming levels of malnutrition have been reported here. Even though Ethiopia's most recent harvest was one of the best for five years, seven million of its 69 million people still need food aid to survive. The U.N. World Food Programme, WFP's director in Ethiopia is Georgia Shaver.

SHAVER:

SHAVER ON CAMERA (21")

“This particular drought has really impacted on people’s livelihoods and they have no safety nets. So as the result of two failed rainy seasons in 2002, many of these people will not be able to grow enough food to feed themselves in 2004 and will continue to be a responsibility of the international community. “

DROUGHT (15.5")

With only two good rainfalls in the last five years, there is little that farmers can do to increase harvests. Farming communities here once relied on crops to provide income and food for their families.

WOMAN COLLECTING WATER  
(20")

Now hunger and the shortage of water is a constant concern for Weynishet Habte, a mother of four. She lives in the village of Kechema, 100 km. from the capital, Addis Ababa. She relies on a nearby pond for water to meet all of her household needs.

HABTE ON CAMERA (5")

HABTE: (Amharic)

“Without this pond, I would have to walk 12 kilometres to Nazerth to get water.”

BAGS OF FOOD/DISTRIBUTION  
(15.5")

WFP has been in Ethiopia for the past 40 years. It has been providing emergency food aid, development projects, and recovery programmes to Ethiopians affected by drought and poverty.

FOOD FOR WORK PROGRAMME (11")	Its food-for-work programme helps destitute families meet some of their daily needs. More Ethiopians are taking advantage of these projects. They hope to depend less and less on food aid and eventually become self-reliant.
DISTRIBUTION OF SEED (19 ")	But the people of Ethiopia need much more than food aid. The Catholic Relief Secretariat, CRS, a non-governmental organization, provides farmers with a two-dollar coupon, just enough to buy seeds for one farming season.
SHAVER ON CAMERA (9")	<u>SHAVER:</u> "We have to ensure and provide programmes that help people to protect their assets so that we stop this spiral decline towards absolute poverty."
WOMEN AND CHILDREN WAITING FOR FOOD (12")	As long as the drought continues, preventing farmers from planting crops to feed their families, many people in Ethiopia will continue to go hungry.
UN LOGO (12")	This report was prepared by Mary Ferreira and Kamil Taha for the United Nations.