



TV UNITED NATIONS NATIONS UNIES

U.N. IN ACTION

Week of 16 August 2004

Programme No. 918

Length: 3'17"

WFP PROVIDES FOOD ASSISTANCE TO LESOTHO

VIDEO

MALERATO AT HOME (19")

LESOTHO VILLAGE /FARMLAND
(20 ")

WFP TRUCKS/DISTRIBUTION
(12 ")

WFP WAREHOUSE (13")

AUDIO

NARRATION

Malerato Kotelo is left alone to face the burden of caring for her five children. Like most women in Lesotho, her husband went to South Africa to work in the mines. Landless and with little remittances coming from his income, feeding her children is a daily worry.

Lesotho depends on its agricultural sector for little more than half of its basic food resources. During the last two years, much of southern Africa suffered from the negative impact of El Nino and drought. A small country like Lesotho found itself struggling to recover from the damage.

Because of a drastic reduction in fertile land due to drought and land degradation, the people of Lesotho are forced to depend on food assistance.

The World Food Programme, WFP, has been providing residents with emergency staples to cope with the situation. WFP's director in Lesotho is Techeste Zergaber.

ZERGABER ON CAMERA
(16")

ZERGABER:

"We have been assisting eight of the ten districts in the country. There was a caseload of people needing assistance, which went from 97,000 up to 600,000. "

WOMEN GETTING FOOD (16 ")

NARRATION

WFP's programme provides each family with 50 kilos of maize, 5 kilos of beans and two-and-a-half kilos of oil each month. The programme also provides baby formula through World Vision to families with infants.

MALERATO WITH BABY (8")

Malerato is fortunate to receive enough food for her 22-month old baby, Isaak, who is underweight.

MALERATO KOTELO ON
CAMERA (13")

KOTELO: (local dialect)

"This is the first time that I am getting food rations. I hope that it would improve my baby's health because he wasn't feeding well."

MINERS/AIDS PATIENTS (21")

Lesotho's revenues have been undercut by the increased rate of HIV/AIDS infection. High levels of infection are prevalent among mine workers, whose remittances account for a substantial portion of the country's income. Now, miners are returning home to Lesotho for treatment and care.

TECHESTE ZERGABER ON
CAMERA (16")

ZERGABER:

"What is happening is really very sad in the sense that these people have helped to create the wealth of Lesotho. Now they are back home helping to

of Lesotho. Now they are back home helping to deplete the resources they have created.”

NARRATION

PEOPLE GOING HOME WITH
FOOD (12 “)

Previously, women, children and the elderly were the most affected by the impact of food shortages. Now, those infected with HIV/AIDS have joined this vulnerable group.

FACES (13”)

Lesotho, one of the poorest nations in Africa, faces many obstacles - drought, poverty, and social ills - on the road to development.

UN LOGO (12”)

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

