

Hunger Persists for More than Three Million in Ethiopia

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Length: 2.17

Language: English/Natural sound

Storyline:

Similar to previous years in Ethiopia, hundreds of children are in need of assistance and are being treated. Only small groups have reached a critical state of severe malnutrition. The Semien Mesenkela Health Post is located in Telamo kebele (village), Shebedino district, Sidama zone, Southern Nations Nationalities and Peoples Regional State (SNNPR), Ethiopia. The centre provides medicines and fortified foods to help children recover from the effects of severe malnutrition. WFP provides Corn Soya Blend. It's run by the government and by the government's counterparts. The children are from the Sidama ethnic group, and come from surrounding villages. Parents, especially mothers, travel at least 2 hours from their villages to reach the therapeutic centre. WFP provides supplementary food and helps monitor and evaluate the nutritional status of the children and the affected community. Other feeding centres in Ethiopia have similar situations. This is because the feeding centres are those places where the most severely malnourished children are admitted and are treated.

Crop failure is one of the main reasons for food insecurity. The problem with the crops is due to both the premature end of recent rains, then the erratic re-emergence of heavy rains. The rains were too heavy, but also untimely. This has meant that the crops became stunted, their roots water-logged and that the plants were unable to be harvested for food. Land erosion is a huge problem in Ethiopia as well. Over the years huge tracts of land have become unproductive due to land erosion and de-forestation. This all contributes to declining land productivity in some areas of the country.

Shotlist:

0 – 36

Various images of severely malnourished children and crowds of people waiting for aid at the Community-based Therapeutic Centre at the Semien Mesenkela Health Post. Similar to previous years in Ethiopia, hundreds of children are in need and are being treated. Only small groups have reached such a critical state.

37 – 1.05

SOT – Georgia Shaver, WFP Ethiopia expert – English: “Unfortunately, Niger is not alone in having hunger problems. One out of every three Africans faces chronic hunger all the time. In Ethiopia, on any given day, anywhere in the county, you can find chronic malnourished children. The World Food Programme is currently feeding 3 million people through our emergency operation and it is extremely well-funded. But when you are faced with chronic poverty, people can still fall through the cracks.

1.06 – 1.40

Various images of severely malnourished children and crowds of people waiting for aid at the Community-based Therapeutic Centre at the Semien Mesenkela Health Post.

1.41 – 1.54

SOT – Georgia Shaver, WFP Ethiopia expert – English: “After decades of drought and irregular rain that have destroyed crops and livelihoods, we still need to increase our long-term commitment there to improve the conditions that have become simply unacceptable.”

1.55 – 2.17

Various images of crop failure and land erosion that destroys farmland, increasing food insecurity. Shot in Sidama zone, Southern Nations Nationalities and Peoples Regional State (SNNPR), Ethiopia.

ENDS