

SHOTLIST - WFP CHIEF IN LEBANON

DURATION: 4 mins 5 seconds

VISIT OF EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF THE UN WORLD FOOD PROGRAMME,
JAMES MORRIS, TO LEBANON

7 SEPTEMBER 2006

TRAVEL SHOT convoy on road

MS ED goes to meet Mayor of Ghazieh

CU widow of victim killed in bombing of Ghazieh

MS Morris with Ghazieh's Mayor, Mohammed Samih Ghaddar, and the Head of
Saida Union of Municipalities, Dr. Abdul Rahman El Bizri

CU Morris

LS Mayor, ED and families who have lost members in bombing

BACKSHOT Morris and families

CU Mr. Badran, who lost 4 children when bomb fell on his house

CU Morris

LS Mayor, ED and families

MS Morris visiting bombed building

CU Morris

MS Mayor and Morris

PAN to bombed building

LS building with Morris & co.

MS Morris standing at graves, flowers

LS Morris standing at graveside

CU Morris

SHOTLIST WFP CHIEF IN LEBANON contd.

PAN to cars

BACKSHOT Morris at news conference, UN House, Beirut

MS Morris at podium

PAN from reporters to Morris

CU UN flag

I/V MORRIS

BACKSHOT Morris walking past UN warehouses at port

MS Morris shakes hands with WFP staff

BACKSHOT visiting warehouse tent

CU Morris

PAN from WFP logo on tent to Morris & co.

ENDS

STORYLINE

The Executive Director of the United Nations World Food Programme, James Morris, travelled to Ghazieh to see for himself the impact of the war on a Lebanese town damaged by bombing and to review the needs of the people as they rebuild their lives after nearly five weeks of conflict.

Located about 50 km down the coast from Beirut, Ghazieh is a farming community with light industry. During the recent conflict, 31 of its residents were killed in bombing raids and some 20 houses and dozens of shops were destroyed. Most of those who fled the fighting have now returned, and have started repairing and reconstructing their properties. But many are still in need of humanitarian assistance, including clean water and food supplies.

“Over the next few weeks, many people still need food aid so their resources and energies can be devoted to the numerous other issues they face while recovering from the crisis,” said Morris, who arrived in Lebanon on Wednesday 6 September for a two-day visit. “Once commercial activities return to normal, we will be able to wind up our operations. We do not want to stay a day longer than necessary.”

In line with WFP's policy of distributing two-week rations to those in need, the people of Ghazieh are this weekend due to receive packages of wheat flour, salt, and canned meat and vegetables. WFP rations will be distributed locally to some 2,500 people by the municipal authorities.

"Having followed the conflict day by day, I was determined to come to Lebanon and see for myself what people have gone through," Morris said. "I am saddened by their losses but also encouraged by people's strength and resilience. After what I've seen today, I am confident that the Lebanese people will overcome this latest ordeal."

As the humanitarian mission moves from an emergency to a recovery phase, WFP is preparing to wind up its emergency operation to provide food aid to Lebanon by the end of October. Due to the swift return to home areas and other promising signs of improvement in the country, United Nations agencies - WFP among them - will be able to scale down their activities and allow the Lebanese Government take a strong lead in ensuring reconstruction efforts are undertaken as quickly and effectively as possible.

Since the beginning of the emergency operation in Lebanon, WFP has dispatched a total of 4,500 tons of food to locations in all parts of the country. Morris paid tribute to the donor community for its generous and speedy contributions which enabled WFP to achieve its aims in Lebanon.

WFP has reached more than 700,000 people since the start of its emergency operation in July and is now targeting some 350,000 of the worst affected people in Lebanon, the majority of whom are in the south of the country, and in the southern suburbs of the capital.

While in Beirut, Mr. Morris addressed a news conference at UN House and visited WFP tent warehouses at Beirut port where he met storage and loading staff.

ENDS