



World Food
Programme

Programme
Alimentaire
Mondial

Programa
Mundial de
Alimentos

برنامج
الأغذية
العالمي

The Food Aid Organization of the United Nations

WFP 2005 16:00-16:02 GMT 28-DEC-2005 EVN

Date Shot:

Location: VARIOUS

Country: COUNTRY MISSING

Sound: NATURAL **Language:** ENGLISH

Source: ITWFP

Restrictions:

Id Item: 253641

Tx_Time: 16:00 - 16:02 **Tx_Date:** 28-DEC-2005 **Status:** PRE

Origin: ZZEBU **Origin City:** GNVE

Item type: EVN

Video News Footage

2005 Year of Disaster

World Food Programme (WFP)

Language: english

Length: 03:00

00:00 – 00:43

Oct 2005 Pakistan Earthquake devastation and WFP relief

00:43 - 00:57

SOT James Morris, Executive Director WFP

“I Believe this has been the most difficult year in the history of the World Food Program. We have had more very serious complicated emergencies around the world than generally is the case”

00:57-01:38

Jan. 2005 Calang, Indonesia, Tsunami devastation and WFP relief

01:38 – 02:03

SOT James Morris, Executive Director WFP

“I think that essentially the world has been pretty generous this year. Never enough, always need more. The Tsunami had the advantage that it happened at the beginning of the year when budgets had not been spent. The earthquake in Pakistan happens at the end of the year when much of the years resources had been committed elsewhere.”

Via Cesare Giulio Viola 68/70, Parco de' Medici 00148 Rome, Italy

Telephone: +39-06-65131 Fax: +39-06-6590632/6590637

E-Mail: firstname.lastname@wfp.org Website: www.wfp.org



02:03– 02:35

July 2005 Maradi, Niger

Severely malnourished children at the WFP-supported therapeutic feeding centre

02:35 – 03:00

July 2005, Dakoro, Niger

Drought affected dying and dead farm animals

News Release

28 December 2005

WFP CHIEF: 2005 EXCEPTIONAL YEAR OF DISASTER – BUT EVEN MORE CHALLENGES COULD LIE AHEAD

ROME – The Executive Director of the United Nations World Food Programme, James Morris, today described 2005 as the most challenging year the humanitarian aid world had faced since World War II, but also warned that the New Year will undoubtedly bring further emergencies and even greater demands on donors.

“The fact is that 2005 was an exceptional year of disaster for millions of people across the developing world,” Morris said, recalling the relentless onslaught of the Indian Ocean tsunami, drought and locusts in Niger, continuing conflict in Darfur, Hurricane Katrina and Hurricane Stan, and concluding with the devastating earthquake in Kashmir.

“None of us knows what 2006 will bring. We can hope for a calmer year, with timely rainfall and limited seismic activity. But we have to be prepared for every eventuality. And if that means appealing for even more funding from our donors, that’s exactly what we’ll be doing.”

Morris expressed concern that in contrast to the overwhelming response to the tsunami, many WFP operations remained dangerously underfunded. For example, its appeal for US\$100 million [*insert latest figure*] to provide air support for UN relief operations in Pakistan is only about one-third funded, while its operation to feed some 10 million people in southern Africa was more than US\$100 million short of the US\$317 million needed by April 2006.

“Part of the problem is that we have become inured to television pictures of drought, floods, landslides and earthquakes – even to wars. We still feel compassion, but we have lost the sense of urgency. And what we feel as individuals is reflected in action by governments – the donations come in, but often more slowly than needed,” Morris said.

In the end, however, the response of most donors to crises in 2005 had been terrific, he said.



Morris said one of the biggest challenges that WFP currently faced is in overcoming the time lag between a disaster occurring and donations coming in. One way WFP is achieving this is by drawing on reserve funds in anticipation of donations coming in. However, the agency is also experimenting with a scheme to provide famine insurance to vulnerable populations in regions prone to drought.

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WFP is the world's largest humanitarian agency: each year, we give food to an average of 90 million poor people to meet their nutritional needs, including 61 million hungry children, in at least 80 of the world's poorest countries. **WFP -- We Feed People.**

WFP Global School Feeding Campaign – For just 19 US cents a day, you can help WFP give children in poor countries a healthy meal at school – a gift of hope for a brighter future.

Visit our website: www.wfp.org

Video footage is also available. Please contact Jonathan Dumont, WFP/Rome, Tel. +39-06-6513-2899, Mob. +39-340-2249140, email: jonathan.dumont@wfp.org

For more information please contact (email address: firstname.lastname@wfp.org):
Brenda Barton, Deputy Director Communications, WFP/Rome, Tel. +39-06-65132602, Mob. +39-3472582217
Robin Lodge WFP/Rome, Tel +39-06-6513-3201, Mob. +39-340-866-2992
Christiane Berthiaume, WFP/Geneva, Tel. +41-22-9178564, Mob. +41-792857304
Trevor Rowe, WFP/New York, Tel. +1-212-9635196, Mob. +1-6468241112, rowe@un.org
Gregory Barrow, WFP/London, Tel. + 44-20-7240- 9001, Mob. +44-7968-008474