



World Food  
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The Food Aid Organization of the United Nations

**World Food Programme**

**Video News Release**

**Somalia El Berde food distribution**

**Shot : 27 November 2008**

**English, Somali**

**TRT: 2:02**

**00:00 – 00:25 El Berde town, in Bakkol district, Somalia.**

Various shots of malnutrition screening at the only clinic in El Berde. The nearest hospital is in Hudur, 70 kilometres away.

**00:25 – 00:35 SOT Timira Hulbale,**

mother of one and half year-old Abdi Daqane, at screening centre. She walked from Lawareg, a village seven kilometers from El Berde.

*My son has been vomiting and has diarrhea – he has been malnourished since he was born but we have no medicine to give him to help him get better. I came here because he is sick and also to get food. I came from far away – and we have no water.*

**00:35 – 01:07 WFP food distribution in El Berde.**

some 800 families, or about 4,000 people receive food rations.

**01:07– 01:20 SOT WFP Somalia Deputy Country Director Denise Brown**

*“Somalia has been hit by conflict, droughts, inflation, high cost of food, family are stressed they are having to beg, to live on charity, and depend on the World Food Programme for assistance”.*

**01:20 – 01:52 more WFP food distribution in El Berde.**

GV of food distribution

**01:52 – 02:12 Camp for pastoralists displaced by drought at Debrib, 13 kilometres outside El Berde.**

people in the camp recently started receiving food from WFP.

### **Background on El Berde, Bakool**

El Berde is in an agro-pastoral area of Somalia severely stricken by drought. The last four successive harvests have all failed because of a lack of rain. El Berde is an area in the Bakool region which is classified as being in an ‘Humanitarian Emergency’ phase. Malnutrition rates in the area are high and increasing – one child in four suffers from acute malnutrition. WFP is currently targeting 30,000 people with food assistance in the area, including 4,800 malnourished children.

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### **Background on Somalia**

It is estimated that 3.1 million people in Somalia currently need food assistance – out of a total of 3.25 million people in need of humanitarian assistance – 43 percent of the population and a 77 percent increase since the start of the year. In October, WFP reached 1.7 million people of the 2.4 million targeted, under an operation that continues to be expanded, despite major security constraints. The balance (700,000) are being fed by the International Committee for the Red Cross and CARE International (CARE are currently receiving WFP assistance to complete distributions in south central Somalia). For over a year, WFP has been working with naval escorts to get food safely into Somalia, given the enormous problems with piracy. Over 90 percent of WFP food for Somalia arrives by sea. The escorts are currently provided by the Netherlands and NATO. In the past year France, Denmark and Canada have also provided the service, and the European Union is due to take over in early December.