

[A Cry for Madiom - feature documentary by Erez T Yanuv Barzilay]

[Full dialog transcription & graphic titles. There is NO NARTION]

[ALL comments and times [WITHIN BRACKETS]]

[There are 7 (seven) Chapters. Each Chapter starts at [00:00]]

[CHAPTER 1 – Opening (2:11)]

[Opening note on black – no sound]

Viewer discretion is advised:
This film contains horrific
Scenes of human suffering
and degradation.

[00:07] [Full color - Full sound]

Lokichokio, Kenya
August 1998

Christoph Nothomb
Water Engineer, MSF-Belgium

[Christoph's text:]

One of the biggest problems is the transportation problem.
In terms of the amount of help that is needed, and the
number of transport means that are available.

Roads, you cannot think of it. Train, you cannot think of it.
So its plane. And plane its very difficult to organize. You
need a lot of planes. It's very costly.

[00:33]

Christoph Nothomb
Water Engineer, MSF-Belgium

But most of all the airstrips in southern Sudan are fairly small. There are not very good quality in terms of the ground. So, planes cannot land.

And it's very often that we send the plane with full load in it, and then it cannot go to the right location, because it's unlandable.

So it's very difficult to plan. If you say, OK I need five planes this week to transport five times six tons – because Buffalo is about six tons of transportation capacity –

[01:08]

Christoph Nothomb
Water Engineer, MSF-Belgium

you are never sure that you get the six planes. Maybe you get one or two. Maybe you will get the six.

But when you are planning you say, OK I need this to build this and to do that, and its very often and its very sad that you can do only half of what you want to do that you are ready to do.

Shai Lah Productions

presents

A Cry for Madiom

A film by
Erez T Yanuv Barzilay

[CHAPTER 2 – Meet Madiom (11:29)]

[00:00] [Opening text on black – full sound]

I was Director of the Jerusalem
Based voluntary humanitarian
Organization Aid Without Borders
(AWB)

and International News Editor
for Israel's Channel 2 Television News,

when I visited the plains of death in
Bahr el Ghazal, southern Sudan.

Back then, after six years of
reporting on African crises, from
Somalia to Rwanda, Madagascar
to Angola.

I thought I had seen it all...
only to be surprised once again.

[date on black – no sound]

August 7, 1998

[Full color - Full sound]

Ajiep,
Bahr el Ghazal, South Sudan

A Cry for Madiom
A film by
Erez T Yanuv Barzilay

Produced, directed,
filmed and edited by
Erez T Yanuv Barzilay

[01:23] [note text:]

Please be advised:
Part of this film is made of
unedited and uncensored sequences,
as recorded by the director
in a small feeding centre

trying to cope with
record breaking numbers
of starving people,
mainly infants and children.

[01:52] [Opening diary – left rolling title:]

Ajeip, Bahr el Ghazal,
August 1998:

Above all, the people
of southern Sudan
are desperately
in need of food.

The cascading rains,
a blessing after two years
of severe drought,
are now hampering efforts
to save at least some
of the thousands starving...

Ajiep's only feeding centre
is operated by Medecins Sans
Frontieres (MSF), Belgium
and sponsored largely by
the United Nations'
Operation Lifeline Sudan (OLS)
and other humanitarian agencies.

[04:04] [Screen clock:]

11:00 AM

[05:08] [in the feeding center – translator's text:]

The intensive care may be put on this one.

[05:41]

Madiom Madiok,
5 years old

[07:56]

Chole Awek,
5 years old

[08:16] [in the feeding center – translator’s text:]

Chole Awek. Chole Awek.

- Chole Awek, how old?

Five years.

- Five years. Chole Awek?

[09:28]

Akel Chole,
13 years old

[CHAPTER 3 – Too Big (11:40)]

[Mother's text – via translator:]

She says she comes from a place called Agok.

- Agok?

It took her three days to walk from Agok up to this place.

- she is alone? Where is her husband?

Madiom's mother

Her husband died of hunger and she remained with five children.

- five?

And she walked with them up to this place.

- where are all the five?

One is here. The other one I am keeping.

The other three are under the tree there.

- what does she need most?

What she needs most is food. She asks how we can help her with food, as quickly as possible.

- how she explains what happened?

- what happened that suddenly they don't have food?

Madiom's mother

She says it is because of the drought. And all the cattle have been looted.

- looted?

So it's a combination of insecurity and drought.

[02:26] [Screen clock:]

2:00 PM

[02:53] [Male Nurse's text – inside hut:]

- how much?

Seven...

- how much?

Seven point four.

- seven kilo?

Seven kilo.

- seven kilo. For a 5 year old, is it enough?"

Point four.

- for five year old?

- five he? Five. Five years?

[Female nurse:]

How much is this?

[Male nurse:]

Seven point four (7.4 kilograms).

[Female nurse:]

Who bring this child in?

[Male nurse:]

This is Madiom Madiok.

- how much?

Two... Eighty two.

- two eighty two. Two eighty two.

Eighty two (82 centimeters).

[05:05] [Female nurse:]

Mama! N.F.C.! Can you explain to the mother she has to go to the N.F.C....

[05:48]

- what do you say?

[06:06] [Male nurse:]

- what did you tell them? What did you tell them?

This people tomorrow they have to go to the feeding center.

- they are not getting food now?

No.

- no?

Only which I give them milk.

- milk?

Yes.

- and tomorrow feeding center?

Ye.

- what did she get? What are you giving her?

[Female nurse:]

This is O.R.S. - Oral Re-dehydration Solution.

They need also water.

- no food today.

Only milk.

- only milk. She is getting now milk?

We bring.

- you bring her now?

Sometimes back.

- back. Not now?

Ten or fifteen minutes.

- OK.

- how much food she will get tomorrow? How much food?

I don't know, in the center there.

- why is he not getting food now?

[Female nurse:]

This child... Why are you question such a...

The child is more then sixty percent (60%).

- I don't know, that's why I am asking questions.

No...

- thank you.

[CHAPTER 4 – Dath Stats (10:36)]

[01:04] [Screen clock:]

5:00 PM

[01:55]

Akel Chole,
13 years old

[Roger's text:]

At this moment we just got today one Buffalo, which is six tons of selective feeding program items.

- that's why people that need right now food will wait at least until tomorrow, right?

Roger Fech
Medical Doctor, MSF-Belgium

Up to now we were just able to give food to the people who were already admitted in the feeding programs.

But we are not able to accept more people to the feeding programs.

Because we have limited food stocks, plus we have also limited infrastructure.

So now, in the coming days - and we arranged it with the WFP flight coordination - we need to have planes coming every day. Two Buffalos every day.

- and you are going to enlarge the feeding center?

Because we are out of space, we need to enlarge as quickly as possible the infrastructure. We want to do it within few days to double the infrastructure here.

- to how many people?

So that we have therapeutic feeding capacity for the severely malnourished and supplementary feeding capacity for the ones that are moderately malnourished as well as for their families.

- how many people are you expecting to feed?

Roger Fech
Medical Doctor, MSF-Belgium

We are expecting to feed in the feeding programs about four thousand (4,000) people. At this moment...

- a day?

Four thousand people...

- a day?

...some of them get food once a week, when they are less malnourished. But the severely malnourished will get food every day. In a day-care system.

It will be here, the day-care. Feeding system for the severely malnourished and their mothers will be here. But only during the day.

The reason why we do it only during the day and not twenty-four hours, its because all these mothers need to prepare food also to the little brothers and the little sisters.

If we keep them in therapeutic feeding that means that the little brothers and little sisters, under the trees, will not get food.

Or they will all come together until it's like a squatting center, which we cannot manage anymore.

So it's really important that we do a day-care here. Daycare during the day... so they can take care of their families

The supplementary feeding is a different type of feeding program.

- how long do you plan to stay here?

Roger Fech
Medical Doctor, MSF-Belgium

We plan to stay here... anyway we are here since several years already.

Now we are preparing an emergency program. And that emergency program we have to continue as long as we have such a terrible extreme crisis here.

The idea is that... after a while, when it is possible. When the level of malnutrition has come down. When the mortality rate has come down. To start decentralize the whole feeding program.

To start distribution in the villages. We will see if it is possible or not. That's the idea.

And what I want to say also, it is very important that the first step to stop this famine situation is general ration distribution.

That, we are not doing. We are taking care of the malnourished.

But we need, its absolutely important, that other agencies, especially the World Food Program together with the local authorities, maintain and even increase...

...increase and maintain general ration food distribution for the whole population in these famine infected areas.

- how many are dieing here every day?

Everyday? We have at this moment around twenty per ten thousand (20/10,000) per day. Twenty per ten thousand (20/10,000) per day.

We estimate the population here in this area at seventeen thousand (17,000) people. So that means, that we are around thirty two to thirty four (32-34) people are dieing every day in this area.

We are collecting data everyday on the beneficiaries of the feeding programs as well as on mortality in the communities.

And we are doing it every day. So on a weekly bases we know how many people per ten thousand per day are dieing.

To give you an idea of where we are now. We are at about little more than twenty per ten thousand (20/10,000) per day in this area.

Normally in Africa, on a total population we have a mortality rate of zero point five per ten thousand (0.5/10,000) per day.

So as for the moment that we are above one per ten thousand (1/10,000) per day, we are in emergency situation.

Now, we are here at twenty per ten thousand (20/10,000) per day. And for the under fives it's even worst.

Normally under fives in Africa, we have a mortality rate of below one per ten thousand (1/10,000) per day.

A crisis situation is from above two per ten thousand (2/10,000) per day.

Here we are at about thirty or even more per ten thousand (30/10,000) per day, for the under fives.

A few weeks ago we were even worst, it was much more. Now it is going down. But we are still, of course, at unacceptable levels of mortality.

- thank you so much. Ye, go ahead. Thanks.

[09:52] [Screen clock:]

8:00 PM

[fade to black]

[CHAPTER 5 – White Angel (12:57)]

[date on black – no sound]

August 8, 1998

[Full color & Full sound]

[02:04] [Screen clock:]

7:00 AM

[02:30] [Christine's text:]

- where from?

From Canada.

- Canada! OK, do you have enough food right now, Christine?

Yes, right now we have enough food to maintain our programs, the therapeutic feeding center as well as the supplementary feeding center.

- OK, now... people... you are going to build something new here?

Yes, right now our structure is inadequate to meet the needs of all the children that we have. So, we have at least one thousand and sixty (1,060) right now.

Christine Nadori
Canadian Nurse, MSF-Belgium

- what is the main problem now for you, as the one that has to select the most malnutrition and take care of them.

- what is the main problem that you are facing here right now?

Right now, it's the space. Quiet practically it's the fact that we can't...

There is a lot of malnutrition. A lot of severe malnutrition. And that is what the therapeutic feeding program deals with.

Right now we have an increase. The increase is too much for us to handle.

So, that's why we have to build this compound. So, in the next days we are waiting to be able to move into that compound. So, that's one problem.

Another problem of course in South Sudan is raining on and off. Which makes it difficult for the planes to land.

So, right now, we have no problems... I have had no problems since I have been here, I am here only a week, maintaining our program in the therapeutic feeding center.

But I know that it's not always easy, for the blanket food distribution, for instance, or even our supplementary feeding center has to shut down some days because we cannot get enough things in here...

- enough food...

Yes, enough food... Logistically, it is difficult to function in this area. Because of the rains and the airstrips not being landable.

[04:25]

This child is in our therapeutic feeding program. That means, he meets the criteria of the therapeutic feeding program.

- he is on emergency, but you say he will survive.

Well, unless he comes across a very bad disease like a watery diarrhea or so.

He should respond well to the therapeutic milk, the high-energy milk, that we give. Many feedings a day.

Then eventually he goes up to porridge and then he should gain, hopefully, his weight back.

- and this little one next to you she is on the supplementary, yes?

She is on the supplementary. She goes and receives a ration once a week with her mother.

Recently we have decided to do a wet feeding also. That means that as well with her weekly ration, she can sit and have a bowl of porridge or milk or some high-energy biscuits while she is there, and then she goes home.

- how do we make sure that they get enough food at home?

There is no way we can do that...

- no way...

The food security right now is so bad. That's why we have this famine. And as far as I know the World Food Program is doing some air droppings. They are dropping food in the region. On a certain schedule, to try and meet the needs of...

- so not many people will concentrate here.

Yes...

- I am asking, how do you know that this little one, when you give her once a week the food, that it will go to her mouth and not to others? You don't know...

It's very difficult to know. Because the whole families are affected. The whole families are starving actually.

Christine Nadori
Canadian Nurse, MSF-Belgium

So when the child comes home with her ration, we know, that she is going to come home and going to give some... I mean, it's going to be shared with the family.

We also give the mother a family ration also. So, we give a family ration also, to avoid this problem.

But anyhow, there need to be a lot of things done here before the situation changes.

- thank you so much. Appreciate your time.

- thank you so much. Ye, go. Thank you.

[07:10]

This is a child of a woman that her other child died a few days ago. So, I saw her yesterday again and I saw that...

He is so cute... He is not malnourished either... So, I said OK, if you bring him I will check to see if he meets the right criteria and if he can come into the program.

We are not covering everyone that we should be covering right now. Lack of space, etc. So...

- but, that's a special case, huh?

Well, I know that the other child died, so this is the only one she has left.

Christine Nadori
Canadian Nurse, MSF-Belgium

So we will see if he meets the criteria so we can get him into the program.

And eventually, we will try to cover all the children that are in our criteria. Once we have the bigger compound and we will get more organized there.

He's got a really nice smile...

I think he is too big, though. Can you imagine?! I think he is too big...

- that he is too big to get into the center?

Maybe.

[11:36] [right to left - scrolling title:]

By next morning, four dead are reported in the centre...

[12:50] [Erez' text:]

- I am coming with you!

[fade to black]

[CHAPTER 6 – Akel is Dead (11:38)]

[Full color – Full sound]

[00:15] [right to left - scrolling title:]

One of the “dead” is still barely alive

[01:02] [Erez’ text:]

- I don’t know if you like it or not.

- what a life. What a life!

[01:40] [Erez’ text:]

- you taking him ?

[02:00] [female nurse:]

No... Tell him. We are going to bring some biscuits.

Biscuits?

Take this for milk. Also, we bring some milk for this man.

Milk for O.R.S.

OK. OK!

- hop, hop. Hey! Go, go!

[02:59] [right to left - scrolling title:]

Amongst the dead is 13 years old Akel Chole is dead

[10:08] [Closing diary – rolling title:]

Vancouver, British Columbia,
Canada, August 2004:

These immense scenes
of human suffering
are haunting me to this day.

Especially realizing
not much has changed
during the past 50 years.

The misfortune has only spread
to the adjacent Darfur region,
a bit further north.

At the end, it all
may come to this:
these people, as well as most
southern Sudanese,
simply live above
one of the largest
oil fields on Earth.

The powers trying to control
this flow of black gold
will continue to produce
even greater human strife
in the years to come.

[no sound]

in memory of
Josepine Abalo Oketta
1967-2001

who dedicated her life to assisting
the people of the New Sudan
and the HIV/AIDS victims
in her homeland Uganda

[CHAPTER 7 – Credits (2:30)]

[Full sound]

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the people of Ajiep,
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for their continuous
support and friendship

[Erez' text:]

Madiom Madiok is only one story of the misery in southern
Sudan.

Filmed on location in
Ajiep, Bahr el Ghazal,
South Sudan, August 1998

More than two million people are starving here, and they will
be dependent on food from outside until next summer.

Produced, directed,
filmed and edited by
Erez T Yanuv Barzilay

Erez T. Yanuv, Channel 2 News - for CNN World Report.

A Cry for Madiom

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