

Harry Belafonte Kenya B-roll February 2004

UNICEF Video B-roll
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B-roll script:

UNICEF Goodwill Ambassador Harry Belafonte in Kenya, 15-20 February, 2004.

Intro

UNICEF Goodwill Ambassador Harry Belafonte has called on all developing countries to follow Kenya's example and permanently abolish primary school fees. A year ago – after the election of a new government on a reform platform under President Mwai Kibaki, Kenya launched its Free Primary Education Policy. Today, the country is having to deal with the very success of its bold experiment: school enrolment immediately jumped by more than a million – to 7.2 million. Classes that held 40 children last year now cram in 70. But even now, many children are still out of school, held back by poverty, lack of available space in slum areas, and the impact of AIDS – and the government has begun a drive to bring more children into education.

Belafonte has just returned from Nairobi (Friday, February 27) where he paid tribute to Kenya's achievements in education, and also intervened to stop the demolition of a children's rescue centre in the capital's biggest slum.

Video Script:

(Belafonte arrives at school)

UNICEF Goodwill Ambassador is greeted at Kihumbuini school in one of the poorer areas of Nairobi with a display of music and dancing by the students. Kihumbuini school shows both the advances Kenya has made in education - and illustrates the continuing challenges.

(Belafonte enters classroom)

As part of Kenya's drive to improve the quality of education, the government is training teachers to create "stimulating classrooms" – encouraging teachers to produce their own classroom materials and to establish a fun environment for children to learn in.

(Belafonte interacts with children in the classroom)

Though the classroom is crammed with seventy children, in nearly 2000 schools UNICEF has provided colourful mats so that children under 9 can do their work on the floor and make the most of the available space. The government's decision to reduce primary school fees from \$133 per year to zero, in January, 2003 brought more than a million new students into the education system. To meet this increased demand, resources are needed to hire trained teachers, provide school meals, buy desks and convert all classrooms into joyful learning environments – with wall charts, pocketboards and flash cards - so that children who come to school have incentives to stay.

Kenya is not alone in facing these challenges. In other African countries where primary school fees have been abolished – such as Uganda and Tanzania – aid for basic education needs to be increased by 500% if universal primary education is to be achieved by 2015, which is the declared goal of the international community.

Quote from Belafonte on Kenya's education achievements.

(Belafonte speaks with children in class)

In spite of the recent progress in Kenya, many children are still not in school. In Nairobi's poorer neighbourhoods school absentees number around 30%. To bring more children into education, the government, with UNICEF support, is launching a "Let's Go to School" campaign. The idea is to help children carry out a "Child to Child Census" – a survey of children who are not in school to find out the reasons why they are absent, and help to mobilise their communities to do more for them. The campaign is in its pilot stage, but will build up to a nationwide launch on June 16th, 2004 – the Day of the African Child.

In Africa as a whole, 45 million children are out of school – the majority of them girls. While missing out on education is disastrous for any child, the fall-out for girls is especially severe. Uneducated girls are at greater risk of HIV/AIDS, sexual exploitation and child trafficking. They are also less likely to have healthy children and less likely to send their own children to school.

Belafonte began an informal survey in a class at Kihumbuini School. Early results from a pilot survey show children citing the cost of school uniforms as a barrier – even though uniforms are not officially required. A second factor is that many children are working as child domestics.

(Kibera slums)

Kibera, on the edge of Nairobi, is described as the world's largest slum, and is home to half a million people. Belafonte went to see first-hand conditions for Kibera's children – and the adults who care for them.

(Belafonte arrives at Stara Rescue Centre)

Stara Rescue Centre, which is supported by UNICEF, caters for 210 children – providing education, as well as other support services, including food. Many children there have been orphaned by AIDS – and many adults are living with HIV. The rescue centre has become a vital resource for them.

Quote from 13-year-old Eunice Nabwire, student and AIDS orphan.

Quote from Pamela Adhiambo: (In Swahili: "I have AIDS. I have it and it killed my sister and she left me in charge of her children. Question from interviewer: What will happen to the nine children if you die? Adhiambo: "They will have a lot of problems if they don't help me, because there is nothing I'll be able to do for them."

In Kenya as a whole there are 900,000 AIDS orphans, leaving many families decimated and struggling to cope from day to day. AIDS orphans are often withdrawn from school to care for family members or act as a breadwinner.

(Children appeal to Belafonte to save centre)

A major difficulty in the country's slum districts is finding suitable sites for schools. On his visit, Belafonte learned that the Stara Rescue Centre was scheduled for demolition within two weeks, since the buildings were constructed illegally on land near a railway line.

Children appealed to Belafonte for help, saying they didn't know where they would go if the centre was destroyed.

(Belafonte meets with President Kibaki)

After leaving Kibera, Belafonte met with government officials, including President Mwai Kibaki. Belafonte paid tribute to the government's achievements in education – saying they were an example for the world to follow.

Belafonte quote on how the world is watching what is happening in Kenya.

(Belafonte speaks to assembled business executives - quote)

Belafonte appealed to both the government and the private sector on behalf of the Stara Rescue Centre. The government answered his appeal, putting off demolition of the centre and agreeing to find a new site for it. Business executives also pledged \$12,000 to help build a new rescue centre for the children of Kibera.

Notes on Kenya:

Population: 31 million. Over one half of the population, including 9 million children live below the poverty line. In 2003, the Human Development Index ranking put Kenya at 146 out of 175 countries.

Life expectancy at birth for both men and women has dropped mainly due to the impact of HIV/AIDS; in 1993 the life expectancy was 63.2 (females) and 52.8 (males). By 2003, it is estimated at 52.8 for women and 46.1 for men. HIV prevalence declined from 13.5 per cent in 2001 to 9.4 per cent in 2003. Rates of over 30 per cent are seen in some parts of the country.

Notes on Harry Belafonte

Harry Belafonte is known worldwide for his accomplishments as a recording artist and concert singer, as an actor and a producer, and for his commitment to human rights. He was appointed a UNICEF Goodwill Ambassador on 4 March 1987.

Belafonte has a long and distinguished campaigning record. He became the entertainment industry's first cultural adviser to the Peace Corps in the early 1960s. He was a leading architect of the civil rights movement. And in 1985, he helped bring together 45 top performers to record the song 'We Are the World', which raised millions of dollars for emergency assistance in Africa.

Harry Belafonte was born in Harlem, New York. He later moved to his mother's birthplace, Jamaica, where he discovered the folk music that became his trademark. His third album, *Calypso*, became the first recording in history to sell more than a million copies. Since then Belafonte's concert tours have broken attendance records worldwide.

The United States awarded Belafonte the National Medal of the Arts, one of its highest honours, in 1994. In 2000 he received the Ronald McDonald House Charities' 2000 Award

of Excellence in recognition of his humanitarian work. Using the US\$100,000 honorarium from this award, Belafonte launched the Harry and Julie Belafonte Fund for HIV/AIDS in sub-Saharan Africa, which is administered by the US Fund for UNICEF.

2004 marks 50 years since UNICEF appointed its first Goodwill Ambassador, US comedian and entertainer Danny Kaye, who began a tradition of service that still brings hope to hundreds of millions of children worldwide.

TIMECODE (PAL)	SHOTLIST
00 04	Belafonte arrives at Kihumbuini school, Nairobi
00 16	Belafonte watches dancing at Kihumbuini school
00 55	Belafonte enters “stimulating classroom” at Kihumbuini school, interacts with children
02 45	Belafonte quote: “One of the greatest problems that we have is the absence of education. Almost every other problem can be fixed if every child were educated and had the opportunity to apply themselves to the opportunities that the world has to offer those who are educated. To see this effort being made here in Kenya is extremely encouraging.
03 05	Belafonte asks why children are not in school – interacts with children in another class at Kihumbuini school
04 39	General Views of Kibera slums, Nairobi
05 02	Belafonte is welcomed by children at the Stara Rescue Centre, Kibera
05 32	Belafonte enters classroom at Kibera, various shots of children
06 09	Quote from 13-year-old Eunice Nabwire, student and AIDS orphan: “My mother died and my father also died. I live here with my auntie and my uncle.”
06 24	Quote from Pamela Adhiambo: (In Swahili: “I have AIDS. I have it and it killed my sister and she left me in charge of her children. Question from interviewer: What will happen to the nine children if you die? Adhiambo: “They will have a lot of problems if they don’t help me, because there is nothing I’ll be able to do for them.”
06 50	Belafonte with gathering of children and adults outside Stara Rescue Centre
06 58	Children make appeal to Belafonte to save Rescue Centre
07 36	Belafonte meets with Kenyan President Mwai Kibaki
08 02	Belafonte quote from speech to government officials: “The eyes of the world through us and through others are now focused on what will happen now here in Kenya. You have brought to the dawning of the twenty-first century a simple utterance that has raised the hopes of many people in the world that there must be a way and a system that can make a difference in the conditions and the struggles of children.”
08 27	Belafonte addresses Kenyan business executives: “I appeal to you, who are here from the private sector, with all that you already do, to help me fulfil a moment in the plea that will make the difference for 210 human beings – many of whom will die, many of whom will not live to see much more of life and those who survive will perhaps become citizens that will make a contribution to this nation that might be most rewarding for all who participate.”