

AFRICA'S CHILD 2000

SCRIPT - UNICEF - 11/08/00

Montage Shots
African Children

NARRATION

For a child growing up in Africa, what does the future of hold? The impression we often get is that Africa's future is bleak.

But, for many young people, this is a vibrant continent of hope, and opportunity. And a stimulating environment in which to grow up.

This is the story of five of Africa's children: their hopes and fears, their goals and achievements and of a much represented continent, seen through their eyes.

Africa's Child 2000 – Kenya

PTC

Title/music

"Jambo. My name is Nkoidila. I live in the Maasai Mara, Kenya."

Landscape

Programme title/music

Montage

NARRATOR

Nkoidila belongs to one of Africa's ancient tribes of herdsmen: the Maasai.

Proud warriors, the Maasai fear no man and no creature: not even the lions that share their land in Africa's Great Rift Valley.

They live a traditional, tribal life, moving their cattle seasonally across the grazing lands.

But today they are also touched by the modern world and young boys like Nkoidila are slowly seeing the old ways give way to the new.

Dawn over boma

Nkoidila:

Each day starts the same here.

The sun comes up, and the goats and cows in our enclosure want to go out and graze.

Inside hut

My seven brothers and sisters and I all sleep in the same room with my mother. She wakes us up with breakfast of tea, with lots of sugar.

The walls of our hut are made of wood and animal dung, but inside it's clean and warm.

Goats let out

A circle of thorn bushes keeps the lions and hyenas away. We call this enclosure our 'boma'.

When the entrance is cleared, the animals are let out onto the pastures to graze.

It's my job to help before I go to school and sometimes we take them far away.

Interviews

IV Education 06.20.57

I want everybody to get an education because it's an important thing. It means people can get good jobs in the future. Everybody should have this chance.

Tourists/animals

Very near to our boma is the Maasai Mara game reserve. The animals bring tourists and their money to the area.

Tourists say they don't own any cattle, but this cannot be true. They are so rich.

Elephants

I like to come out with the tourists when I can, because I am learning many things about their world.

Tourist manyatta

Sometimes I go with my mother to sell her bead jewellery.

My mother likes to wear her ears stretched to make her beautiful

It's because of this money that we can buy clothes and shoes, and food. And it pays for my brother and I to go to school

Herding cattle

On Sundays there is no school and I have to take my turn with the cattle.

In the morning, my brother and I take them down the valley to find water and to lick salt.

This can be dangerous as lions can come.

Salt lick/warriors

At the salt lick there are many cattle.

They love to taste the salt and we know they need it for their health.

Keeping guard

One day I want to have children and live in the Mara. But things are changing and my life will be different from my father's.

Boy with stick

I am going to study and want other things too.

Sunset/boy with stick

Africa's Child 2000– Ethiopia

Map of Africa - zoom to Ethiopia

Title Music

PTC

Hello, my name is Selamawit Teferra. I'm from Addis Ababa in Ethiopia.

Title:

(NARRATOR)

Montage - Meskel ptc

Selamawit is a modern girl in an ancient world. She has always lived with her family in Ethiopia's capital, Addis Ababa.

With a population of two million, Addis is a lively city, a mix of the old and the new.

Inside Church

For over 16 centuries, the people of Ethiopia have followed Christianity. Magnificent churches and paintings are found throughout the city.

2nd Festival shot

At the time of the Meskel festival, Addis comes alive with colour and music.

Dancer turning

It's a special time of year for Selamawit.

C/U Selam on minibus

Everyday I go to school by minibus. It's a private school and we have to pay to go there.

When I have finished, I would like to train to be a doctor.

Crossing road

Everybody is excited today as tomorrow is the start of our yearly Meskel festival and its holiday time.

Chemistry class

Some of our classes are taught in our own language Amharic, but most are taught in English. My English is not very good.

| | |
|-------------------------|---|
| Shots of area by home | My house is near the Entoto Mountains in the north of Addis. It's very green and quiet here. I like fresh air and the sound of birds. |
| Exterior house | My mother works in the city to support us as my parents are separated. In the evenings when she gets back from work she often cooks. |
| Piazza scenes | One of the biggest shopping district in the city called the Piazza. We can buy all sorts of things here like clothes and jewellery. |
| Woman crossing the road | Today though I want to buy something a little different. I'm going to the studio of a painter to buy a picture called an icon. The pictures are all very beautiful but my favourite is the one that tells the story of our Meskel celebration. |
| Queen - painting | The great Queen Helena set out to find the true cross in Jerusalem. The smoke from a bonfire led her to where the cross was buried. Today we celebrate by lighting bonfires all around the country. |
| Long Shot of procession | On the day of the festival I wear a special Sunday School uniform and walk with my friends from our church to the main Square in the centre of the city. |
| C/U priest and cross | The priests and deacons come to the celebrations in their finest costumes and carry precious gold and silver crosses. |
| PTC - Meskel Square | <i>'I'm in the middle of Meskel Square. All the chuches of Addis Ababa are here. There are thousands of people. It's very, very beautiful.</i> |

Bonfire

When all the performances are finished the bonfire is lit and everyone goes crazy.

Dancer twirling

I'm really fascinated by the culture of my country. I like it when people say positive things. It makes me feel very special and glad to be living here.

Africa's Child 2000– Cameroon

Map of Africa: zoom to Cameroon

Piece to camera

[Title music]

Hello, my name is Felix, and this is my brother: he's called Francis. We live in the rainforest in Cameroon.

Felix

Landscapes and mountain, and forest animals

NARRATOR:

Felix and Francis are growing up on the slopes of Mount Cameroon in West Africa.

It rains a lot here: in fact it has one of the highest rainfalls in the world.

Within the rainforest there are countless different kinds of plants and animals.

People shots

But the forest is also home to thousands of people.

F&F run from rainy house

Felix and Francis live in a small house on the edge of the rainforest, and almost every day they go into the forest.

F&F chopping and collecting firewood

Francis and I often come to collect firewood. It's easy to find wood here, but it's hard work to chop it all up and carry it home.

We live with our great-grandmother. Every day she prepares and cooks our food for us. Today, she is grating up some yams which grow in the forest.

We live in Bwando village, but our house is quite far away from the other houses.

Grandma preparing food

Malé dance, boys and leaves,
and elephants

We do all our cooking on the open fire, so that's why Francis and I have to collect firewood every day.

Every few weeks in our region there is a special dance. It's a very old tradition and it's all about the forest.

I like to watch the men eating bitter raw yams - to prove how strong they are.

Buea town, F&F, and wrestling

The elephants are the strongest animals in the forest, but in this dance they *can* also be quite gentle.

[Pop music] Francis and I don't stay in the forest all the time. Sometimes we come into the local town of Buea. Today I've come to take part in the wrestling, one of our favourite sports in Cameroon.

Wrestling - Felix's contest

Now it's my turn. I've already won a few times here. So today I think I'm in with a good chance.

Felix wins
F&F come to waterfall

[Music: anthem] Sometimes we walk a long way into the forest. It's taken us hours to get here.

I like the rainforest because you can find almost everything you need here, like food, and medicines and water.

I'm not sure what I want to do when I grow up. But I guess it'll be *something* to do with the forest.

AFRICA'S CHILD 2000– Ghana

Titles,map

LINDA PTC

Girls on log

Hello, my name is Linda Kwei, from Ghana. And these are my friends, Mavis and Juanita. We are 'the mysterious girls'.

City:title

'LINDA- MYSTERIOUS GIRL'

Music-choir rehearsal.

NARRATOR
Pan across
Accra skyline

Linda is a child of the city.

She lives in Accra, the capital of Ghana, which was once a British colony, called The Gold Coast.

The first African nation to break free of colonialism, Ghana is a peaceful independent state and democracy.

Fishing scenes,
slave castles,
intercut with choir.

Today, the grim relics of slavery have been replaced by a vibrant culture rich in music and art.

Singing and dancing are a particularly special part of Linda's life.

LINDA - choir

There was this invitation letter, which came to our school, which was saying that they wanted students who can sing, dance, recite poems etc. Why don't

why we join in? See what will happen. Who knows, maybe...

Nat. Theatre stage

The Fun World show is performed by different children every month at the National Theatre, and filmed for TV.

Group chatting
with teacher
backstage +
cutaways of
performers

As well as singing in the choir, my friends and I have a dance group called 'The Mysterious Girls'.

Hundreds of children audition for the show, then the lucky ones develop their acts with professional help.

Drummers

Our dance is a traditional dance of the Ashanti tribe.

Girls come on
Stage, dance

Market

We buy our food from the nearby Makola Market.

It's crazy here – always noisy and crowded.

Today we are buying vegetables to add to a stew.

Drummers, girls'
cutaways watching,
dancers.

After dinner, the mysterious girls go out to play.

These drummers and dancers are the famous Odehe Dance Troupe.

Girls on bench.

We have come to watch them rehearse and see what we can learn.

Cu Emmanuel

The dance instructor is called Emanuel Gomado, and he is known all over the world.

Girls join in.

| | |
|------------------------------------|---|
| Car journey | But, of course, soon ‘the mysterious girls’ are joining in. |
| Inside car | The next morning, we are going for a drive in the country. |
| Arrival at village | Emmanuel is going to buy a new drum, and has asked us to go along. |
| | There’s just time before our show starts at the National Theatre. |
| | The drums are made in villages not far from Accra. |
| | I suppose you could call this a drum factory, and there are lots more of them along the road. |
| | The drums are made from tree trunks, which are carved out by hand. |
| | Then they are shaped and polished. |
| TV team, backstage Scenes | Back at the National Theatre the TV company is getting ready and the stage is being set. |
| Girls dressing. | We’re all getting really nervous. It’s the first time we’ve danced before an audience. |
| Girls’ dance, Parents watching. | Finally our turn has come. |
| Linda I/V | Traditional music makes you feel better about your culture, about your country. It makes you love your country, it helps you to learn many things from it whenever it is being sung. And also helps you to understand what it is like to be an African. |
| Choir to end. | |

Freeze

AFRICA'S CHILD 2000 – Egypt

Hello. My name is Yasmine Affifi, from Cairo, Egypt.

(Music)

*Montage. Nile dawn.
Pyramids.(NSP archive)*

NARRATOR

Yasmine lives in Cairo, the largest and busiest city in Africa - on the famous River Nile - and the capital of Egypt.

It's a very ancient country, famous for the pyramids, and for the tombs of the Pharaohs.

Nile

But it's also a lively modern city and one of the most important centres of the Moslem religion, Islam.

Yasmine lives in a modern block of flats in the very heart of the city.

The school bus collects her and her brother every weekday; which in the Islamic world means from Sunday to Thursday.

The journey to school with their friends goes along the side of the Nile, and takes little time at all.

My school is Port Said school. It's five minutes away from my house by bus. I learn English there, as well as my own language, Arabic.

School playground

Yasmine

I think that I would like to go to university. I want to study science because I like science very much. I wish that I could become a doctor.

(Football)

We are four in my family – my father, my mother, my brother and me.

Basketball.

After school, I sometimes go to our sports club.

My favourite sport is basketball. Every Thursday, I go for training at the club.

Backlit shots.

But today is a special Thursday, because it's the night before the great Islamic feast of Eid al Adha.

(Music)

Mosque (archive)

The feast of Eid al Adha is one of the most important days of the year in our religion, Islam.

Market.

It celebrates the sacrifice of a lamb to God by the prophet Ibrahim.

Sheep in pen at market.

He first agreed to sacrifice his son to God, but God allowed him to sacrifice a lamb instead.

*GV Other relatives, CU
Of aunt and uncle*

The feast of Eid is the time for the whole family to come together.

First we visit my grandmother on my mother's side. Then later we will visit my other grandmother.

During the day we will eat the meat of the lamb two times, once boiled and once grilled.

Street scenes

In the evening, there's time to relax again, and to have fun.

Funfair giant face, Yasmin and family walking, on rides, on boats, buying ice-cream, other rides.s

Sometimes we go to the fun fair but rarely because my mother and father are afraid of the games (laughs).

I really enjoy this feast of Eid because it's a holiday when I can relax with my family.

Face painting scene

And, of course, there's no more school for five whole days!

End on freeze-frame of Yasmin's on water ride.

(Theme Music: Egyptian variation)

Montage shots of children **NARRATION**

For Africa's children, the world is changing. They live in a continent rich in culture and potential but fraught with political and economic problems.

But children like these are the future of Africa and they express not despair but

optimism and a determination to build a better world.

END - ROLLER