

MDGs Award

AFRICA RISING (winner)

A superbly shot and uplifting film about poor people in a rural region of Ethiopia who get together to help themselves. The jury found this a compelling piece of work that drew the viewer into the heart of this community as it struggled to shake off a dependency culture. From an endearing woman dismissed as mad for starting a café in her bush village, to the candid money lender lamenting the loss of his profits from the poor, this rich and inspiring production had it all.

MATERNAL MORTALITY (2nd)

A brave and rigorous piece of journalism that never shrunk from its task of highlighting what Ban Ki-Moon called "the mother of all health challenges." Little is heard in the media about this slowest moving of all Millennium Development Goals, perhaps because it's a tough subject to engage an audience with. But Pascale Harter and Jill McGivering's probing investigation succeeded in bringing home the facts with some riveting radio.

WHAT IN THE WORLD: NOMA IN NIGER (3rd)

In the wrong hands this film about the facial eating tissue disease, Noma, would have been hard to watch. Yet the spirit and resilience of the afflicted young children and their parents shone through making this as much a story of courage and hope as pain and despair. One young mother, her face half destroyed when a child by this dreadful disease, explained how this has never stopped her husband from loving her.

SPECIAL MENTION:

OMAR: DO YOU ACCEPT MY "HANDICAP"?

This moving film impressed all the jurors with the sensitive and positive way it dealt with disability. Sad at times, but never sentimental, it takes us into the world of 19-year-old Omar from Morocco, who suffers from spinal amyotrophy. Despite weighing just 16 kilos and unable to move most of his limbs, we see the bright and likeable Omar meeting his beloved Barcelona football team, penning challenging poems and travelling the world.

Jury panel:

CHAIR: Mike Thomson, Foreign Affairs Correspondent, Today Programme
Richard Klein, Controller, BBC 4
Hetan Shah, Chief Executive, DEA
Sarah Lambert, Head of Representation in the UK, European Commission

