

# **U.N. IN ACTION**

Week of 20 November 2006 Programme No. 1036

Length: 4'22"

## UN VOLUNTEERS TREAT PATIENTS IN MALAWI

<u>VIDEO</u> <u>AUDIO</u>

## **NARRATION**

AT HOME PREPARING BREAKFAST

A typical day in the life of a United Nations
Volunteer. Dr. Frank Madinda, a Tanzanian
surgeon, signed up for volunteer service for two
years in the southern African country of Malawi.
Preparing for work is a key part of Dr. Madinda's
day which usually starts off with a good and solid
meal. (22")

TRAVELLING TO WORK
PATIENTS AT HOSPITAL

Making his way from home to Kamuza Central Hospital in Lilongwe, has become a daily routine in Dr. Madinda's life. Patients, most of whom live in abject poverty; fill the corridors of the hospital eagerly awaiting his arrival. (14")

DR. FRANK MADINDA ON-CAMERA MADINDA: (In English)

"This is the only hospital that has got operating surgeons, so they refer them here. They receive them in the clinic and we make the diagnosis and decide whether to do the operation." (11")

#### NARRATION

CORNELIUS BEING ROLLED
INTO THE
HOSPITAL/OPERATING ROOM
ETC./CHECKED BY DOCTOR

Sixty-four year old Cornelius Chikho had an operation in 1998 for bowel obstruction. After a regular check up last year, doctors decided to perform minor surgery today on Cornelius. But his blood pressure is high and plans to operate were postponed. Cornelius is grateful that UN volunteers are available to assist poor people like him in Malawi. (26")

<u>CHIKHO</u>: (In English)

CHIKHO ON-CAMERA

"I remember in some developed countries, this operation is a lot of money and I couldn't even afford it. That is why I came here so the volunteer will help me." (11")

### NARRATION

BRIEFING FOR YOUNG INTERNS

As local professionals leave home seeking better employment opportunities elsewhere, other physicians have joined Dr. Madinda as volunteers to help Malawi meet its medical needs. Providing medical attention is only one part of the job for volunteers. Training young interns is also a key part of their responsibilities. One year ago, Dr. Ivan Voshchenkov, came from Russia to Malawi as a volunteer. (26")

#### **VOSHCHENKOV:**

**VOSHCHENKOV ON-CAMERA** 

"If you have a heart for people, I think you should come to share your experience, your heart, your brain, your knowledge... for these poor people. " (9")

#### NARRATION

YOUNG GIRL AFTER OPERATION

Maureen Chilango, was diagnosed with fibroidenoma which is a small lump in the breast.

Anaestheologists prepare for the operation scheduled to be performed by a team of UN volunteer surgeons. Without their help, paying for an operation of this magnitude is out of reach for Maureen and most people in Malawi. These surgeons perform between four to six operations daily. (25")

TUMOR/OPERATING THEATRE SHOTS

Obstacles are many at Kamuzu Central Hospital where equipment and nurses are scarce. The mass removed from Maureen's breast must be sent to another city for analysis. It will take from 3-5 weeks before doctors learn the results from readings by a skilled pathologist. (18")

**BURN VICTIMS** 

In the paediatric ward, Dr. Madinda makes his rounds. Burn marks on the bodies of these young children were caused by kerosene stoves often used in homes for cooking. Mothers are instructed to apply a special cream directly to the skin to assist with the healing process. (17")

STREETS/PEOPLE LEAVING HOSPITAL

While UN Volunteers will leave well-trained young people behind to provide much-needed medical services, it is not enough to sustain an established healthcare system in Malawi. (12")

**UN LOGO** 

This report was prepared by the United Nations. (6")