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U.N. IN ACTION

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RAPE VICTIMS IN CONGO

VIDEO

M/S. SIHUSIKE WITH HER BABY,
WORKING IN CASSAVA
PLANTATION.

M/S. SIHUSIKE ON CAMERA

M/S. SIHUSIKE BREASTFEEDING
HER BABY.

W/S. GROUP OF WOMEN
TILLING THE LAND.

AUDIO

Nineteen year old Sihusike had plans to go to university.

But eighteen months ago, those hopes were destroyed.

During her school holidays, she was intercepted by a group of soldiers on the road. (13')

SIHUSIKE (SWAHILI)

I was on my way home when I came across five soldiers. When I tried to defend myself they told me that if I struggled they would kill me. Then they raped me one by one. Afterwards they said "as you are beautiful we cannot leave you with two hands or other men will want you" so they cut off my hand and burnt it. (24')

NARRATION

After the attack, Sihusike's uncle threw her out of home. Not long after she found out she was pregnant with her rapist's baby. (8.5)

That's when Sihusike was discovered by Synergie Des Femmes or Women's Synergy. The group is helping a hundred and twenty three

victims of sexual violence – close to the town of Minova in North Kivu province. (12')

M/S. LITTLE GIRL WITH UMBRELLA AT BACKGROUND.

The youngest is just three years old (3').

C/U. GERMAINE CHIRIGIRI, OF SYNERGIES DES FEMME, ON CAMERA.

GERMAINE CHIRIGIRI (FRENCH)

One of the most serious consequences of rape is that these women lose the ability to provide for themselves and their children. Once they have been raped, they stop going to distant fields to harvest, they stop going to the market where they usually go to get their food. They prefer to stay where they feel safe. But in these places there is not always everything they need and they and their children live in very poor conditions without enough food. (29')

W/S. SOLDIER WALKING IN THE MARKET

NARRATION

The second Congo war finished in 2003 but militias still roam the countryside here, driving people off their land. (8')

M/S. OLD WOMAN SITTING/SELLING IN THE MARKET

The result - only a tenth of Congo's agricultural land is being exploited. While more than two thirds of the population are undernourished. There simply isn't enough food to go around.(12')

W/S. CITY BY THE SEA. PEOPLE IN THE MARKET

An incredible situation when you consider that Congo has sufficient land and water resources to feed the entire African continent if properly

managed. (10')

M/S. WOMEN TILLING THE FIELD

That's why the European Union has donated 2.5 million euros to the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization to help vulnerable families in this region to help themselves. (11.5')

These women are among the beneficiaries. They're receiving tools and cassava plants so that they can feed themselves and their families. (7.5')

M/S. ALEX NYARKO, UN FOOD AND AGRICULTURE ORGANISATION, ON CAMERA.

ALEX NYARKO (ENGLISH)

We try to focus on cassava because cassava is the main portion of the diet, around 70% of the diet of the population, and cassava has now been infested by mosaic disease. Our objective is to see how we can improve the production, or improve the availability of healthy cassava cuttings. What we do is to produce healthy cassava cuttings and distribute it to vulnerable populations. (25')

NARRATION

W/S. WOMEN WITH SACKS/NETS OVER THEIR HEADS, APPROACHING.

Another initiative in the village of Kiroitse is helping rape victims and other vulnerable women to start their own businesses. (7')

M/S. FISHERMEN RECEIVING THE NETS FROM WOMEN

Riziki Muhongo is one of those benefiting from the project. (3')

W/S. ROW BOAT WITH FISHERMEN ONTO THE SEA

She and the other women have been given fishing equipment that they loan out to local

fishermen. (5.5)

M/S. WOMEN SPREADING THE NETS

When the fishermen return with their catch, the women take the fish to market to be sold. They then split the profits. (8')

M/S. RIZIKI WITH OTHER WOMEN FIXING THE NETS.

Riziki is already supporting a family of 12 and is pregnant with her 6th child. Her sick husband and elderly parents can't work. She alone has to feed 5 children and 3 orphans. (14.5')

C/U. RIZIKI MUHONGO, GROUP LEADER, ON CAMERA

RIZIKI MUHONGO (SWAHILI)

Since these activities started we have become able to support ourselves. First of all, we can eat. We are able to pay school fees for our children. And we can also support their basic medical care. Some of us are even able to start building small houses. (22')

M/S. WOMEN IN THE MARKET.

NARRATION

The project is serving a double purpose. (2')

M/S. WOMEN SELLING THEIR PRODUCE.

Increasing food production while giving these women a new start. (4')

C/U. FISHES IN GREEN CONTAINER

Many more projects like this one are needed if the country is to have any chance of achieving the Millennium Development Goal of reducing the percentage of its hungry people by half before 2015. (11.5')

W/S. GROUP OF WOMEN WITH

Congo's war may be over, but for the war on

THEIR PRODUCE WALKING

hunger, there's no peace accord in sight. (6')

UN LOGO

This report was prepared by United Nations
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