



TV

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U.N. IN ACTION

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ANTI-RETROVIRAL DRUG REPLACES DESPAIR WITH HOPE IN HAITI

VIDEO

MALIA AT HOME

MALIA ON CAMERA

OLD PHOTOS OF MALIA

STREET SCENE

AUDIO

NARRATION

With just a few words...Malia Jean's life was shattered. (4)

JEAN: (In Creole)

"After six years of marriage, my husband told me he was infected with AIDS." (6.5)

NARRATION

He died in 1997, leaving her with both a baby daughter and a diagnosis of HIV/AIDS. She spent her life savings on antiretroviral drugs...borrowed the money when she could. There were times she went months with no treatment. (15)

Malia is far from alone. In Haiti's population of eight million, one in twenty, 250,000, are HIV-positive. Many of them, like Malia, need treatments they can't begin to afford. (14)

For Malia, there was a solution. As of 2003, she started receiving drug therapy free, as part

of a sixty-six million dollar initiative by the UN Global Fund to Fight AIDS and other diseases. The drugs are available countrywide...but there is one major problem says UNAIDS Coordinator, Raul Boyle. (21)

BOYLE ON CAMERA

BOYLE:

“The money is here. Drugs are here. Experience is also here. But there are not sufficient clients who would like to be treated.” (9.5)

DR. MARIE ON-CAMERA

DECHAMPS:

“Stigmatization is a big problem in Haiti.” (3)

DR. MARIE WITH PATIENTS IN GHESKIO CENTRE

NARRATION

Dr. Marie Dechamps of the Gheskio Center – Haiti’s leading AIDS research and treatment facility. (6.5)

DR. MARIE ON CAMERA

DECHAMPS:

“From the beginning people were ashamed to talk about HIV, to come to the centre for services.” (5.5)

MALIA TAKING PILLS

NARRATION

So the Gheskio Center recruited people like Malia and others living with HIV/AIDS to reach out to those in need. (7)

EXTERIOR/INTERIOR
DRUG STOREROOM

MALIA: (In Creole)

“I am doing counselling, and when someone is tested HIV positive, they come to see me. I’ll

MALIA WITH PATIENT

tell them my story, what medicine can do for them and where to go find it.” (14.5)

MALIA ON CAMERA

PATIENT: (In Creole)

“She gives me a lot of help. She’s one of us. She’s now OK. But me, I cannot say I am OK yet, but I have hope now.” (5)

PATIENT ON CAMERA

NARRATION

Within a year, the number of those on antiretroviral drugs has nearly doubled to almost three thousand. As for the number of people who stay on the drug – it’s near perfect. Only four percent of all patients drop out. (13.5)

STREET SCENE/PATIENTS IN CLINIC

MALIA AT HOME GETTING READY FOR WORK/WALIKING ON STREET

The initiative aims to reach twenty-five thousand patients by 2008...only a percentage of those who need treatment the experts agree, but a significant achievement in a country struggling with crushing poverty and decades of political unrest. (16.5)

UN LOGO

This report was prepared by United Nations Television. (3)