



TV

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U.N. IN ACTION

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UNICEF VACCINE INITIATIVE HELPS PACIFIC ISLANDS' CHILDREN

VIDEO

MOTHER/CHILDREN ARRIVE
(17")

ISLANDS (18")

VACCINATION (33")

AUDIO

NARRATION

Monini Lata Kumar and her two children, arrive at a clinic in Nadi, a city in western Fiji. It's time for five-month old Malvish to be immunized against meningitis and polio.

In many countries around the world, vaccinating children is a routine affair. But here in the Pacific Islands, immunization is a complex and costly exercise. Large distances and high delivery costs create huge logistical problems.

UNICEF's Vaccine Independence Initiative, or V.I.I., is a novel way to improve procurement, finance and delivery of vaccines to Pacific countries. The initiative is structured around a guarantee fund, which acts as a line of credit for 14 Pacific Island states, and it makes vaccine programmes much more affordable for these cash-strapped countries. Hundreds of thousands of children in the region are benefiting. Now, mothers like Monini Lata Kumar can have peace of mind.

MONINI LATA KUMAR ON
CAMERA (6")

KUMAR:

"They gave the injections at the right time for my baby so that I can know that my baby is healthy."

STORAGE (27")

NARRATION

Cold storage is crucial to keep the vaccines potent and effective. UNICEF adds together the small orders from 14 island nations into one regional request. Vaccines are shipped from manufacturers to the regional cold store in Fiji. They're then repackaged and shipped to the Island countries. Great care is taken to ensure that the cold chain is maintained so that vaccines are protected during shipment.

STORAGE/SMALL BOXES (15")

Vaccines are ordered twice a year and always arrive in time to avoid shortages.

ISHRI INTRO

It's a good deal for the countries of the region participating in this programme, says UNICEF Project Officer, Dr. Ajesh Ishri.

DR. AJESH ISHRI ON CAMERA
(15")

ISHRI:

"UNICEF is a big buyer and buying in bulk gives it a good price value and therefore countries are able to have these vaccines at a very low or minimal costs and yet able to provide these services to the public."

FRIDGE/VACCINATION (30")

NARRATION

The V.I.I. guarantee fund procures vaccines for tuberculosis, polio, hepatitis, diphtheria and tetanus, measles and rubella and meningitis.

Prior to the implementation of the scheme each country purchased small quantities of vaccines separately. This resulted in high costs, lost consignments, shortages and the use of impotent vaccines. Fiji's Deputy Director of Public Health, Dr. Timaima Bakani Tuiketeti.

TUIKETEI:

DR. TIMAIMA BAKANI TUIKETEI
ON CAMERA (15")

"V.I.I. has helped in terms of utilizing the facilities that are available within the UNICEF system to assist us in procurement and also the logistical arrangements."

CHILDREN/PLAYGROUND (32")

Immunization programmes in Pacific Island countries have recorded remarkable progress over the past ten years. Ninety percent of the children are now protected against tuberculosis, diphtheria, tetanus and measles. By contrast less than one quarter of infants were fully immunized 20 years ago. A major consequence of the progress made has been the sharp reduction of disease incidence. A true success story for these Pacific Island children...

UN LOGO (20")

This report was prepared by Chaim Litewski for the United Nations.