



TV UNITED NATIONS NATIONS UNIES

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Length: 3'12"

WHO PROVIDES BICYCLE AMBULANCES TO RURAL MALAWI

VIDEO

RURAL SCENE (13")

VILLAGE/ BICYCLES (13")

PREGNANT WOMAN (13")

PREGNANT WOMEN &
CHILDREN IN CLINIC (18")

BICYCLE AMBULANCE (15")

AUDIO

In rural Malawi in southeast Africa, getting medical treatment is a challenge. A lack of public transport is a problem for patients, especially pregnant women.

The village of Chamadenga is only 30 Kilometres from the capital, Lilongwe. But cars are rarely seen here and people walk or use bicycles to get around.

This woman is pregnant and doesn't feel well. She can't walk and there is no public transportation to take her to a doctor or clinic. And the nearest health facility is more than 8 kilometres away.

Maternal mortality in Malawi is one of the highest in the world. It's more than eleven hundred per 100,000 live births. One of the contributing factors is the lack of transport to get women to health clinics on time.

To solve the problem, the World Health Organization, WHO, in cooperation with the Government of Malawi, has come up with a practical solution. It's the bicycle ambulance.

WHO's acting representative in Malawi is Dr. Nestor Shivute.

SHIVUTE:

DR. SHIVUTE ON-CAMERA (10")

"These are being used to transport especially pregnant women and people who are seriously ill and unable to walk to health facilities."

NARRATION

BICYCLE AMBULANCE (16")

The two-wheeled bicycle ambulance is suitable for rural areas where tar-sealed roads are non-existent. It's simply a cart pulled by a bicycle. It's easy to fix and any member of the community can use it.

COMMITTEE MEETING (16")

The ambulance is maintained and operated by the communities themselves. To do this, the village of Chamadenga elected a ten-member committee, divided equally between men and women. Its chairman is Edga Kamangeni.

KAMANGENI: (local dialect)

KAMANGENI ON-CAMERA (9")

"People have really accepted this bicycle because it helps them in their lives. When they are sick, they don't worry about getting to the hospital. We transport them to the hospital very quickly."

NARRATION

WOMAN BEING TRANSPORTED
TO CLINIC (16")

The Chamadenga community received their bicycle seven years ago. Without it, the only option for this patient was to be carried by her family. It may not be the smoothest of rides, but she made it to the village clinic in a few minutes.

WOMAN EXAMINED BY A NURSE
AND RELEASED (20")

The patient was in the early stages of pregnancy. She was suffering from morning sickness. She was examined, given some medication and released. If her situation was more serious, the bicycle ambulance would have taken her to a better-equipped health facility, more than 8 kilometres from her village.

BICYCLE AMBULANCE ON THE
ROAD (15")

The bicycle ambulance may not be the fastest or the most comfortable way to travel. But in the case of medical emergencies, it remains the only readily available means of transportation in much of rural Malawi.

LOGO (12")

This report was prepared by Kamil Taha for the United Nations