

U.N. IN ACTION

Week of 17 May 2004 Programme No. 905 Length: 3'48"

UN SUPPORTS FIGHT AGAINST HIV/AIDS IN PAPUA NEW GUINEA

VIDEO	AUDIO
PARLIAMENT (21")	An historic day in Papua New Guinea. The western Pacific nation's parliament passes a law that for the first time protects the rights of citizens with HIV/AIDS. It is now illegal to discriminate against sufferers. And the bill also supports an education campaign to alert the public to the dangers of the disease.
PETER WALKING (12")	It's a particular triumph for Peter Momo, one of the country's best-known AIDS activists. Since publicly declaring that he was infected with the virus, he's led a campaign to get others to speak out.
PETER MOMO, AIDS ACTIVIST ON CAMERA (8")	<u>MOMO</u> : "As they see me as a role model coming out, they will know that if Peter can do it, we can do it. Our problem is stigma."

NARRATION

NGO (15")

To encourage a more open attitude towards

discussion of HIV/AIDS, Peter joined STOPAIDS, a local voluntary group. It works with young people to promote AIDS awareness and education because the need to address the issue is urgent.

NATIONAL AIDS Health experts predict that more than one-third of COUNCIL/WALIAWI AT WORK (14") Health experts predict that more than one-third of pandemic within 15 years. Peter Waliawi is the Deputy Director of the National AIDS Council, which is in charge of overall AIDS policy.

<u>WALIAWI</u>:

PETER WALIAWI, DEPUTY DIRECTOR, NATIONAL AIDS COUNCIL ON CAMERA (10")

NATIONAL YOUTH COUNCIL MEETING (16") Iose them all." At a meeting of the National Youth Council, specialists discuss ways of reaching out to youngsters, a key target group in the fight against the disease. Some three-quarters of Papua New Guinea's more than five million population are

"We fear that we may lose a lot of our potential

people who would be involved in the economic

activities, in making the country grow. We could

CONDOM DISTRIBUTION (15") The problem is many of them don't use contraceptives, so the Council is giving away free condoms. They're a proven way of slowing the spread of the virus. But there's a long way to go. Currently only 12 percent of men use prophylactics on a regular basis.

under the age of thirty-four.

PEOPLE IN STREET/ SOLDIERS MARCHING (20")	As a result, women often contract the HIV virus from men and now half of all people living with HIV/AIDS here are women. Papua New Guinea's armed forces are also affected and efforts are under way to create awareness of the disease among the country's soldiers.
ALEXIA AND MICHAEL WALKING (10")	Nurse Alexia Dekene and Sergeant Michael Are work as aids councillors with soldiers and their families. We are trying to break the vicious cycle of HIV infection, says Alexia.
ALEXIA DEKENE, NURSE, PAPUA NEW GUINEA ARMY ON CAMERA (8")	DEKENE: "They have unprotected sex, they pick up the virus, they come back to their families and they mostly give it to their wives."
ALEXIA TALKS TO SOLDIERS/FAMILIES (28")	Alexia and Michael have already talked to over forty thousand soldiers and their families about the dangers of unprotected sex.
DR. NII ENTERS OFFICE AND WORKS	Preventing the spread of HIV/AIDS is a priority for the United Nations in Papua New Guinea. The UN Programme on HIV/AIDS, UNAIDS, is working with the government and the people to replicate successful experiences that have worked in other countries also ravaged by the disease. UNAIDS Adviser is Dr. Nii K Plange.
	PLANGE:

DR. NII K PLANGE, COUNTRY PROGRAMME ADVISER, UNAIDS, ON CAMERA (9")

"UNAIDS has been able to collect what is called best practices so that in situations like Papua New Guinea they don't have to re-invent the wheel."

AIDS PROMO (21")
Education and information are key. Ads such as this are being broadcast by radio and television throughout the country. It is only by increasing awareness and understanding HIV/AIDS that the people of Papua New Guinea will have a fighting chance against this most destructive epidemic.
UN LOGO (10")
This report was prepared by Chaim Litewski for the United Nations.