



UNITED NATIONS NATIONS UNIES

21st Century

Programme : Episode 60
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Producer : Gill Fickling

MEXICO: STREETS NOT PAVED WITH GOLD

The global population has hit a staggering 7 billion and in many of the world's largest cities, overcrowding is forcing some, especially the young, to live life on the streets. We travel to Mexico City to go deep inside their perilous world.

VIDEO

AUDIO

(SOUND OF TAPE: Music)

NARRATION:

MEXICO CITY SHOTS

One of the most famous landmarks of Mexico City is the golden angel who watches over the more than 20 million inhabitants of this vast urban sprawl. But the angel looks down on some more kindly than others (18.47")

MARISOL: (In Spanish)

MARISOL WALKING

"I've been living on the streets for around 13 or 14 years.// My name's Marisol, I'm 24 yrs old – my son's called Diego and he's nearly one." (12.83")

NARRATION:

MARISOL AND BABY DIEGO ON HER LAP	Marisol is one of the many young people – mostly in their teens and twenties - who carve a life for themselves in the squalid and often dangerous conditions of the Mexico City streets. (12.34”)
BOY CLEANING CAR WINDOW	Official figures cite some 3000 people living on the streets. (4.67”)
BUS ON HIGHWAY	Many argue the figure is ten times higher. (3.00”)
BUSES	A large number of them have come to the capital city from rural areas, driven by a lack of jobs or, like Marisol, to escape family violence. (11.23”)
MARISOL WASHING CLOTHES	<p><u>MARISOL</u>: (In Spanish)</p> <p>“I decided to live on my own on the streets when I’d had enough of living with my father. (4.15”)</p> <p>“I couldn’t stand that he was abusing me. He wouldn’t stop doing this to me, so I left.” (5.87”)</p> <p><u>NARRATION</u>:</p> <p>Marisol was only 11 years old. And it wasn’t just her father who was abusing her. (5.91”)</p> <p><u>MARISOL</u>: (In Spanish)</p> <p>“Not only I was abused by my own father</p>
MARISOL ON CAMERA	

and also by my uncle and by another uncle
and another uncle – all this is really hard for
me.” (9.96”)

NARRATION:

MARISOL CARRYING WASH
BASIN

Today, Marisol lives in a flimsy shack
amidst piles of rubbish with a gang of other
kids she calls her “family”. (8:00)

This family is one of many such groups of
kids, who are drawn together by their
struggle for survival. (5.59”)

SHELTERS

Some live in make-shift shelters on traffic
islands ...and others even live in dark holes
underground. (6.66)

TWO TEENAGERS IN BED
UNDERGROUND

They survive how they can ...some beg
...some clean car windows from early
morning – to late at night. Life expectancy
for these kids is just 30 years old. (9.18”)

MARISOL: (In Spanish)

“Firstly, you can die from drugs.” (7:15)

NARRATION

TWO TEENAGERS SNIFFING
ON DRUGS

The drug is an industrial solvent which
eventually rots the body and the brain.
(3.92”)

YOUNGSTERS SNIFFING MONA

It’s called “mona” and it kills hunger and
temporarily lifts the kids out of the horror of
their daily lives. (8.20”)

*(NAT SOT: BOY DEMONSTRATES
DRUG)*

NARRATION:

Another constant threat is gang violence
(2.15")

MARISOL

DOG ON STREET

"Sometimes there are fights between us,
even in our OWN gang." (3.36")

NARRATION

But even greater dangers await the girls.
(2.50")

EDNA MADAY : (In Spanish)

MOTHER AND CHILD ON
STREET

"For women, the biggest problem they face
is exploitation; sexual exploitation,
exploitation at work, and emotional
exploitation." (9.04")

NARRATION:

EDNA RESTING

Edna Maday works for an organisation
called Fundacion Renacimiento, which
helps street kids. (5.09")

BABY ON COUCH

Girls are particularly vulnerable. (2.00")

GIRLS ON STREET

Prostitution to earn money for food, she
says, is common. And so is having to earn
a place in a gang. (6.83")

MARISOL AND YOUNG MAN TOUCHING	<p><u>EDNA MADAY:</u> (In Spanish)</p> <p>“If a girl wants to be able to join and become a part of a group, she has to let some of the boys have sex with her.”</p> <p>(6.48”)</p>
BABY AND WOMAN IN TENT	<p><u>NARRATION:</u></p> <p>And with that comes the very real risk of contracting HIV and sexual diseases. And unplanned pregnancies are another danger – something this girl knows all too well.</p> <p>(10.54”)</p>
LUPITA GOING DOWN STAIRS	<p><u>LUPITA MEDERANO MARCAS:</u> (In Spanish)</p> <p>“My name is Guadalupe Mederano Marcas and I’m 6 months pregnant. I’m 15 years old but I’ll be 16 soon.” (6.97”)</p>
INTRO OF LUPITA AND ADRIAN	<p><u>NARRATION:</u></p> <p>Lupita, as she’s known, and her 14 year old boyfriend, Adrian, are expecting their first child. (5.73”)</p>
ADRIAN HOLDING LUPITA’S BELLY	<p><u>ADRIAN GENARO DECENSIO:</u> (In Spanish)</p> <p>“It’s not moving now because it might be asleep but suddenly it will move!” (4.33”)</p>
LUPITA AND ADRIAN SITTING IN PARK	<p><u>NARRATION:</u></p> <p>Lupita has been living on the streets since she was nine years old. Like Marisol, she was abused by her father. (6.23”)</p>

LUPITA: (In Spanish)

“He beat me and made me do all the housework.” (1.94”)

NARRATION:

Even her step-mother could not protect her. (2.02”)

LUPITA: (In Spanish)

B & W B-ROLL OF STREET
PAVEMENT AND POLICE CARS
ON STREET

“She couldn’t stop him because she wasn’t my own family – so she let him beat me.” (3.87”)

NARRATION:

And so Lupita fled, planning to live on the streets on her own. But she was soon taken by the police to a shelter, one of several in Mexico City offering street kids a safe haven. (12.09”)

LUPITA: (In Spanish)

LUPITA AND EDNA ON CAMERA

“I escaped. It wasn’t that I didn’t like it, I felt more restricted in the shelter than in the street.” (6.43”)

NARRATION

LUPITA AND ADRIAN WALKING

Like many kids, she has spent the last years in and out of shelters.
And, in the summer of 2010, Lupita and Adrian met at one of them. (10.51”)

LUPITA AND ADRIAN GOING UP

But just a few months’ later, they, like so

THE STAIRS AND WALKING TO THEIR ROOM	<p>many other kids, returned to the streets. (4.97")</p> <p>Now they struggle to make ends meet – at the moment, they are living in a room in an abandoned house, shared with drug-dealers. (10.19")</p>
LUPITA NAD ADRIAN IN THEIR ROOM	<p>There are dangers everywhere but Lupita believes that, alongside Adrian, she's safe. (3.58")</p>
LUPITA ON CAMERA	<p><u>LUPITA:</u> (In Spanish)</p> <p>"I'm not scared because I know I'm fine with my partner and he's going to support me and to protect both me and the baby – he's always looked out for me. "(10.36")</p>
IN THE ROOM	<p><u>NARRATION:</u></p> <p>But they have no running water, no electricity and no sanitation. They sleep on the hard floor ... and both dream of a different life. (10.25")</p> <p><u>LUPITA:</u> (In Spanish)</p> <p>"I want my house to have furniture, a heater, a sink to wash properly, water, a bed so we're not on the floor and, more importantly, so that the baby is not on the floor ..."(12.08")</p> <p><u>NARRATION</u></p>
LUPITA AND ADRIAN IN ROOM	<p>But for now, their reality is this room. (3.97")</p>

(NAT SOUND: Lupita and Adrian praying)

NARRATION

LUPITA AND ADRIAN
COLLECTING GARBAGE

And while the back streets are emptying,
for the young couple, their daily work of
earning a living begins. (8.85")

LUPITA: (In Spanish)

"We're looking for bottles ..." (1.53")

ADRIAN: (In Spanish)

".. plastic bottles, to sell them." (2.00")

*(NAT SND: Lupita and Adrian collecting
bottles)*

NARRATION

They search for hours. (1.38")

LUPITA AND ADRIAN
WEIGHING GARBAGE BAG

Tonight they had an average haul – they
made just 25 cents. (5.16")

EDNA: (In Spanish)

EDNA CALLING LUPITA AND
ADRIAN

"Lupita!!!!.... Adrian!!!" (2.00")

NARRATION:

LUPITA AND ADRIAN WALKING
UP LADDER

The next day, they receive a visit from
Edna, the outreach worker. For 12 years,
she's been working with street-kids,
winning their trust and, ultimately, trying to
get them to move into a shelter
permanently. (13.67")

EDNA ON CAMERA

Today, she and her colleague, David accompany the couple to a clinic for their first pre-natal check. (6.28")

LUPITA AND DOCTOR IN CONVERSATION

*(NAT SND: LUPITA WITH DOCTOR:
Upsound: NURSE CALLS LUPITA)*

DR: *"Do you know your blood group? No? Do you know what inoculations you've had?"*

LUPITA: *"No") (6.37")*

LUPITA GETTING WEIGHED AT DOCTOR'S CLINIC

NARRATION:

It turns out Lupita is a month farther along in her pregnancy than she thought. She's around 7 months' pregnant. Edna knows it's urgent to get them into the safe environment of a shelter before the birth (14.63")

EDNA WITH LUPITA AND ADRIAN AT DOCTOR'S WAITING ROOM

EDNA: (In Spanish)

"Because we are speaking about two children who are expecting another child. If they can get themselves to a place where they can be looked after, I think they will have a chance." (8.62")

LUPITA AND ADRIAN ON STREETS AGAIN

NARRATION:

Their future, Edna believes, rides on them turning their backs on street-life. (5.12")

NARRATION:

MARISOL AND BABY DIEGO
GOING INTO A BUILDING

And so does Marisol's and her baby Diego.
If she can be persuaded to leave the
dangerous life of violence and drugs,
there's a chance that Diego, won't be taken
away from her, as happened to all three of
her other children. (16.18")

MARISOL AND BABY WALKING
IN BUILDING CORRIDOR

MARISOL: (In Spanish)

"They took them away from me // because I
was on the streets, taking drugs and stuff"
...(4.93")

MARISOL PREPARING BABY
DIEGO FOR BATH

NARRATION:

Although still living in the shack with her
boyfriend, it seems Marisol is determined to
make some changes in her life and not lose
Diego too. (8.18")

MARISOL IN SHELTER
FEEDING BABY DIEGO

Now, she visits daily the shelter Edna
works for. (3.33")

BABY DIEGO GETTING A
CHECK-UP AT THE DOCTOR'S

They receive medical care ... Diego's
check-up shows him to be alarmingly
underweight and underdeveloped ...
(9.15")

....A result, the doctor believes, of him
breathing in the solvent-drug sniffed by his
parents. (5.71")

(NAT SND:

DOCTOR: "Has he been sick?"

MARISOL: "No, but he's starting to
cough." (5.99")

	<p><u>NARRATION:</u></p> <p>Marisol also receives contraceptives and treatment for her drug-addiction. (5:15")</p>
EDNA ON CAMERA	<p><u>EDNA:</u> (In Spanish)</p> <p>" Marisol needs lots of support, she needs to feel a bond with something and, above all, she needs to feel loved and respected."(7.62")</p>
DIEGO PALACIOS ON CAMERA	<p><u>DIEGO PALACIOS:</u> (In Spanish)</p> <p>"So that the kids on the street don't feel abandoned, we have to bring their situation to public attention." (5.58")</p>
PALACIOS IN OFFICE	<p><u>NARRATION:</u></p> <p>Diego Palacios is Representative of the United Nations Population Fund in Mexico, which is working <u>with</u> the Mexican government to help these kids at risk. (10.04")</p>
PALACIOS ON CAMERA	<p><u>DIEGO PALACIOS:</u> (In Spanish)</p> <p>"Mexico is facing great challenges for the future. So it's fundamental that public policies are adopted which fully recognise the needs of young people and guarantee them a future filled with promise and with opportunities." (11.57")</p>
CHILDREN PLAYING FOOTBALL	
LUPITA SITTING ON STAIRS	<p><u>NARRATION:</u></p> <p>Opportunities which both Lupita and</p>

	Marisol would welcome. (4.04”)
MARISOL ON CAMERA	<p><u>MARISOL</u>: (In Spanish)</p> <p>“I don’t know what the future holds for my kids, if they’re going to be the same as me, or WORSE than me ... I don’t know but I’ve got to get out of all this both for my kids and for me.” (14.59”)</p>
MARISOL CHANGING BABY DIEGO	<p>“I’m going to do it, I’m going to come through this ...”(2.06”)</p>
LUPITA AND ADRIAN CARRYING BAGS AND WALKING	<p><u>NARRATION</u>:</p> <p>A conviction echoed by Lupita and Adrian. They too have made a decision about <u>their</u> future. (8.87”)</p>
LUPITA AND ADRIAN ON BENCH	<p><u>ADRIAN</u>: (In Spanish)</p> <p>“We’re looking for a place to have the baby.” (2.16”)</p>
MAN GREETING LUPITA AND ADRIAN BY OPENING DOOR	<p><u>NARRATION</u>:</p> <p>And that place, is a shelter. (2.15)</p> <p><i>(NAT SND: Adrian and Lupita being settled into shelter (receiving towels; taken upstairs to rooms)</i></p>
LUPITA AND ADRIAN PICKING UP THEIR MEALS	<p><u>NARRATION</u>:</p> <p>When they arrive, they are first given something to eat. (3.05”)</p>
LUPITA POSING HER THINGS	And Lupita organises her few possessions

IN HER ROOM

and breaths a sigh of relief to be
somewhere safe. (7.48")

LADY GIVING LUPITA AND
ADRIAN TOOTH -BRUSHES AND
TOWELS

LUPITA : (In Spanish)

"Now I have a bed and somewhere I can
live well, where my baby will be fine and
where they're going to support us.
Underneath a real roof, and not where
everyone's taking drugs – that's why I
decided to come here." (18.20")

BACK OF LUPITA AND ADRIAN
WALKING THROUGH
CORRIDOR TOGETHER

NARRATION:

This time, it's hoped she'll make a home in
the shelter, rather than return, once again,
to the streets. (7.40")