



TV

# UNITED NATIONS NATIONS UNIES

U.N. IN ACTION

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Programme No. 936

Length: 4'57"

## UNFPA PROJECT ASSISTS INTERNALLY DISPLACED YOUTH IN COLOMBIA

### VIDEO

KAREN WALKING (7")

KAREN TORRES, INTERNALLY  
DISPLACED, ON CAMERA  
(15")

CONFLICT- WOMEN CRYING  
(16")

VILLA ESPERANZA  
(11")

### AUDIO

#### NARRATION

15 Year-old Karen Torres is one among the millions of Colombians displaced by war. (6")

#### TORRES: (IN SPANISH)

*"The guerrillas came to our home. They told us that if we didn't let my older brother join them they would kill us all..."* (9")

#### NARRATION

Decades of conflict between the Government and drug traffickers, guerrillas, paramilitary and other criminal groups has left a nation reeling...and vulnerable. (12")

Karen's family fled to Villa Esperanza in northern Colombia where they joined nearly two thousand other families also seeking refuge. (9")

The people keep on coming, carrying their belongings and the emotional burden of having lost their homes, their standard of living and loved

(48")

ones to the violence. But instead of finding safety they arrive to a chaotic and hostile environment in which drugs are readily available. Rape and sexual exploitation are tolerated with little consequence and violent crime is met with almost complete impunity. In the past eight years alone, seven community leaders have been murdered.

(35")

WITNESSA, WAR DISPLACED,  
ON CAMERA (7")

WITNESS: (IN SPANISH)

*"Everyone here who becomes a leader is a target for assassination, for kidnapping and torture" (6")*

MORE OF VILLA ESPERANZA  
(15")

NARRATION

But it's not just the leaders who are at risk. With nearly half of the displaced under the age of 18, the youth are increasingly vulnerable. Carlos Ivan Pacheco from the UN Population Fund, UNFPA.

(13")

CARLOS IVAN PACHECO,  
UNFPA, ON CAMERA  
(12")

PACHECO: (IN SPANISH)

*"We find problems such as sexual abuse, gender violence...and we are beginning to find HIV/AIDS as a grave problem." (9")*

WORKSHOP (27")

NARRATION

But now, a UNFPA initiative allows 150 youngsters at Villa Esperanza an outlet for their creative energies...and their pain. Communication, both verbal and non-verbal helps them fight ghosts from the past and present fears. They're encouraged to confront gender roles, peer

pressure and sexual violence. (25")

EMILIO TEACHES (18")

It often turns emotional as the children communicate symbolically the hardships they have experienced; acting out the traumas they have witnessed... and endured. Project teacher Emilio Ramirez. (16")

EMILIO RAMIREZ, DANCE  
TEACHER, ON CAMERA  
(9")

RAMIREZ: (IN SPANISH)

*"By expressing themselves through their bodies, they are telling us about their dreams and the problems they face."* (6")

DRAWING  
(20")

NARRATION

Their pain, and hopes, are also expressed through writing....and drawing.

DANCING

The arts also help adolescents learn to know, love, respect and protect their own bodies as well as those of others. (16")

DOCTOR TALK (16")

And in a community where over 80 percent of sexually active children do not practice safe sex and one third of all adolescent girls have been pregnant at least once, visits like this one prove invaluable. (14")

DOCTOR/NURSE TALK TO  
YOUNGSTERS (11")

NATURAL SOUND

NARRATION

Twice a week doctors and nurses visit... answering health related questions, giving advice on family planning and even cancer prevention. (9")

MARIBEL SPEAKS (8")

For UNFPA's Maribel Riano, the project has had a profound impact on the lives of the youngsters. (6")

MARIBEL RIANO , UNFPA, ON CAMERA (15")

RIANO: (IN SPANISH)

*"Children who used to be very shy, very quiet, very introspective, little by little have been able to express themselves. Some through words, some through art, they were able to express the pain they felt."* (13")

KAREN (7")

NARRATION

And for Karen Torres, dancing has meant an escape from the hardship she has endured. (5")

KAREN TORRES ON CAMERA (7")

TORRES: (IN SPANISH)

*"Through dancing I am moving ahead. It fulfils and enriches my life."* (5")

KAREN DANCES (15")

NARRATION

All of this, humanitarian workers believe, is a first step in giving hope to children who have seen so much senseless violence. (8")

UN LOGO (10")

This report was prepared by Chaim Litewski for the United Nations. (5")