



# TV UNITED NATIONS NATIONS UNIES

## U.N. IN ACTION

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Week of 11 January 2005

Programme No. 939

Length: 4' 14"

### FISTULA IN ZAMBIA

#### VIDEO

#### AUDIO

WOMAN CHECKED BY DOCTOR  
(10")

#### NARRATION

Thirty six year-old Jane Siamutabi is lucky to be alive. (5")

JANE ON-CAMERA (24")

#### SIAMUTABI: (local dialect)

"I was in labour for 3 days alone at home. When I finally got to the hospital and they did the caesarean section, they found the baby was already dead." (18")

WOMEN WITH BABIES (22")

#### NARRATION

Jane's story is not unique. Thousands of rural women like her in her native country of Zambia in Southeast Africa deliver their babies unassisted, at home. Many of them are young...their pelvises too small for baby to easily pass through. A fact that puts their babies...and themselves at risk. (19")

Dr. BREEN WITH PATIENTS (6")

Dr. Michael Breen is a volunteer surgeon at Zambia's Monze Mission Hospital. (5")

DR. BREEN IN OPERATING  
ROOM (11")

DR. BREEN:

"When a lady is in labour for a few days, when the labour becomes obstructive what happens is the pressure of the baby's head causes a hole to develop between her bladder and vagina." (9")

WOMAN IN HOSPITAL (15")

NARRATION

It's a medical condition known as Fistula...and it leaves a woman completely incontinent. The head of the global fistula campaign for the United Nations Population Fund, UNFPA, is Dr. France Donnay. (13")

DR. DONNAY ON-CAMERA (13")

DONNAY:

"When these women are left incontinent, often they are abandoned, they are ostracized, they are stigmatized, they cannot stay with the family...so it's a medical problem but it's also a social disaster." (10")

PATIENTS INSIDE CLINIC (11")

What's more, while this problem can be corrected with a simple three hundred dollar surgical procedure, few of the nearly thousands of women suffering in Zambia alone, ever receive it. (9")

ZAMBIA DOCTOR WITH  
PATIENTS (18")

In a country with overwhelming poverty and high rates of deadly diseases like AIDS and Malaria ...medical services are overburdened and fistula is not among the priorities. Zambian Minister of Health, Dr. Brian Chituwo.

CHITUWO:

DR. BRIAN CHITUWO ON-CAMERA (12")

"The non-communicable diseases are on the increase and the communicable diseases. As if that were not enough, we have the HIV/Aids pandemic. (9")

PATIENT BEING WHEELED TO OPERATING ROOM (10")

NARRATION

Stepping in to help is the UNFPA and international donors who together created and funded Zambia's first Fistula Programme. (8")

DR. BREEN ON-CAMERA (16")

BREEN:

"This lady has the vesicovaginal fistula. And all we're going to do is just close that hole. Because she has that hole she has incontinence or urine. So, she's leaking urine. Luckily the hole is not too big...it shouldn't be difficult to do." (14")

OPERATION (19")

Dr. Breen, together with local doctors and nurses, now performs one to two of these surgeries a week at a cost of just three hundred dollars per operation. (14")

DR. BREEN (12")

DR. BREEN:

"It was a nice case, there was no trouble closing the hole...and she should have a good outcome following the operation." (8")

JANE DISCHARGED FROM HOSPITAL (16")

NARRATION

They also help these women, many of whom were brought in from remote parts of the country, with their long journey home. After six weeks in

the hospital, that's exactly where Jane is headed  
(13")

JANE (13")

SIAMBUTABI: (local dialect)

"I am so happy to be home again with my children because I didn't know if I was ever going to come back to them." (10")

ARRIVE AT VILLAGE (12")

Grateful and healthy after receiving the surgery, Jane now has the chance to heal and raise her remaining children in a community that now accepts her. (10")

LOGO (12')

This report was prepared by Kamil Taha for the United Nations. (5")