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U.N. IN ACTION

Week of 28 August 2006
Programme No. 1024
Duration: 3'45"

CHINA – SEX RATIO IMBALANCE

<u>VIDEO</u>	<u>TIME</u>	<u>AUDIO</u>
LU LILJIANG XIANG AND LIANG XINHUA WORKING IN RICE FIELD	13.5"	<u>NARRATION</u> This is, Lu Liljaing Xiang 39, and her husband Liang Xinhua, 42, of the Li ethnic minority. They have just enough land to grow rice and don't have a son to help them in the field.
LU AND 2 OF HER DAUGHTERS, OUTSIDE HOME AND INSIDE AT TABLE	12"	In 1989 they had a daughter and waited eight years before deciding to have a second child, hoping for a boy. Now they have three daughters. The eldest has left home and is working in a nearby town.
YOUNG MEN WORKING IN FIELDS, HARVESTING AND THRESHING RICE	12"	A family without boys is rare in rural China, where traditional preference for sons is deeply rooted. Sons carry the family name, help in the field and support their parents in old age.
OUTSIDE OF HOME AND FAMILY INSIDE EATING AT TABLE	9"	Couples determined to have a male heir often run up against the 25-year-old policy limiting family size - typically no more than two children in rural areas.

CHILDREN OUTSIDE SCHOOL **10:21** Some have responded by secretly learning the sex of their foetuses and aborting the females, an illegal practice. As a result, boys outnumber girls across China.

BOY WALKING OUTSIDE CLASSROOM

CHILDREN AND TEACHER N **08:00** Hainan in the south had the highest imbalance of any province, with 135 males born for every 100 females in 2000.

CLASSROOM

EXTERIOR SHOTS, MOBILE **08:25** Starting in 2004, Hainan family planning officials suspended the requirement that couples wait four years after their first birth to have a second child.

HEALTH CLINIC VISIT TO HAINAN VILLAGE

SHOTS OF GIRLS – OUTSIDE **12:25** This led to a decline in abortions, and to an increase in girls being born. To counteract son preference, the province also provided economic incentives including higher old-age pensions for couples who have only girls.

HOME, IN CLASSROOM, LEAVING SCHOOL

LIANG XINHUA, ON-CAMERA **6”** LIANG XINHUA (Chinese)
“According to local regulations we can have three kids because the first one is a girl and the second is a girl.”

NARRATION

LIANG XINHUA AND HIS WIFE, **11:06** Because they have only daughters, under the new policy, this family has received subsidies, extra land for farming, funds to rebuild their home, and will have generous old-age pensions.

LU LILJIANG XIANG,
WORKING IN RICE FIELD

CLIENT AND HEALTH WORKER IN SHANZOUYOU FAMILY PLANNING CLINIC	06:05 This is the Shanzougou Family Planning Clinic, supported by UNFPA, the United Nations Population Fund.
HEALTH WORKER PERFORMING SONOGRAM	7” As part of the policy to prevent sex-selective abortion, health workers are not allowed to reveal the sex of the foetus to parents.
HU DAJI, OUTSIDE OFFICE	4.5” This is Hu Daji, Deputy Director of the Hainan Population and Family Planning Bureau.
HU DAJI, ON-CAMERA	<u>HU DAJI</u> (Chinese) 11” “We have to understand that a preference for sons has been around for thousands of years; we cannot change this overnight...people in the villages still depend on men to work in the fields.
GIRL WRITING IN CLASSROOM	<u>NARRATION</u> 4” As a result of Hainan’s new policies, more girls are being born.
UNFPA REP SIRI TELLIER AT WORK IN HER OFFICE	6” This is Siri Tellier, the United Nations Population Fund Representative in China.
SIRI TELLIER, ON-CAMERA	<u>SIRI TELLIER</u> (English) 11” “You have to change people’s minds, you have to change people’s hearts, you have to change the whole environment. And you do that by making legal changes, by making different economic incentives...” <u>LULILJIANG XIANG</u> (Chinese)

LU LILJIANG XIANG, ON-
CAMERA

8.5” “I know that people here in Hainan, the people I know, prefer to have boys, sons, but to me, boy or girl, it’s the same. “

LIANG XINHUA, LU LILJIANG
XIANG AND DAUGHTERS
EATING IN THEIR HOME

NARRATION

8” Thanks to government socio-economic support, this family, even though they have no sons, is less concerned about its economic future, and old age.

MOTHERS AND CHILDREN
WAITING OUTSIDE MOBILE
HEALTH CLINIC, HAINAN,
THEN FOLLOW ONE MOTHER
INSIDE FOR EXAM OF HER
DAUGHTER

11:25 The new approach in Hainan has resulted in a more balanced sex ratio, fewer abortions, improvements in maternal and child health, and has given couples more control over their reproductive decisions.

LOGO

This report was prepared by Christian Delsol and Patricia Chan for the United Nations.