



# TV UNITED NATIONS NATIONS UNIES

## U.N. IN ACTION

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### HELP FOR YOUNG PEOPLE LIVING ON MEXICO CITY'S STREETS

#### VIDEO

CARS, YOUNG BOYS IN  
STREET

FOUNTAIN  
YOUNG PEOPLE TALKING

CLOSE UP JOSE

WS YOUNG PEOPLE  
STANDING

BOY PLAYS WITH BALL

MS BOY WITH PAINT THINNER  
COUPLE

#### AUDIO

##### NARRATION

Surviving the streets of Mexico City – one of the world's largest cities -- is a daily struggle for Jose' and his friends.

Jose' is now 25 years old. Abandoned by his mother, he's been living in this broken fountain since he was six. He shares it with eight of his friends, including, he says, a toddler:

##### JOSE': (In Spanish)

"He lives in one of these (laughs). Two years old!"

##### NARRATION

Many young people growing up on the street are fleeing abuse and neglect at home.

They find their own sense of community here, living and playing under highway overpasses.

But life on the street exposes them to violence, to cheap and highly-toxic drugs like paint thinner, and to sexual abuse says Javier

## NARRATION

Dominguez of the UN Population Fund

Javier Dominguez: (In Spanish)

CLOSE UP JAVIER

“They’ve had to leave school, they have no job opportunities, they live in a state of constant and profound vulnerability.”

## NARRATION

PAN/BOY AND CARS

A vulnerability many of them know only too well...

ANA: (In Spanish)

MED SHOT “ANA”

“It was a very ugly experience. I saw my friends dying of overdose without being able to help them.”

## NARRATION

CLOSE UP GIRL/BOYS  
TALKING

Ana, now 16, is an orphan who started living on the streets when she was six, to escape her abusive foster parents.

ANA: (In Spanish)

MS ANA

“It still hurts, knowing that I am alone in the world. It’s hard for me. “

## NARRATION

WS TUTOR AND GIRL  
POSING WITH TUTOR

She is still in pain, but at least Ana is off the streets, sharing this house – part of a project called “Help and Solidarity for Homeless Girls” –

## NARRATION

- with dozens of other girls who have been abused or abandoned.

MS MARIAMAR

The institution's director, Mariamar Estrada, explains.

## ESTRADA: (In Spanish)

ESTRADA, DIRECTOR, AYUDA Y  
SOLIDARIDAD POR LAS  
NIÑAS DE LA CALLE EN  
CAMARA

"You have to consider that they've been raped by their fathers, beaten by their brothers, drugged by their uncles – sometimes they come from a whole family of drug traffickers.... But here they see there are other options in life. "

## NARRATION

GIRLS LOOKING AT GLOBE  
TUTOR ETC.  
SITTING AROUND TABLE

Here, young girls used to the unruliness of the street are given a structured, safe environment.

They learn study skills. They help with chores.

MOPPING FLOOR/SINGING

They learn to sing again. (NATSOT UP)

CU GIRLS WITH BANDAGE

And to bring a smile to the most unfortunate among them.

MS MARIAMAR WITH "JUANA"

In this supportive environment, even some of the most painful wounds begin to heal. Eight year old "Juana" was abandoned by her mother and severely abused by her uncle. Asked if she has a favorite dress she says yes, it's a red one. Why?

## JUANA: (In Spanish)

MS GIRLS WITH MARIAMAR  
HUGGING

"Because red is the color of love and it reminds us to be loving and kind, of the love of the

children, and of the parents – and that parents shouldn't hurt their children.”

### NARRATION

MS GIRLS MARIMAR

Juana doesn't know it yet, but one of the support staff from the institution has been trying to adopt her. If all goes well, the paperwork will come through soon.

GIRL TAKING A SCHOOL BAG

But without more resources, more homes, and more trained personnel, institutions like these can only help a small minority of children in need.

MS JOSE WSHING CARS

Meanwhile, back on the street, Jose' and his friends are still just trying to get by. Jose' has quit drugs, because his girlfriend – who won't appear on camera -- is now pregnant.

SLOW TRAVELLING ROADS OF  
MEXICO CITY

Now he wonders about how to secure a future for his baby – away from Mexico City's streets.

UN LOGO

This report was prepared by Michele Zaccheo for United Nations Television.