



TV UNITED NATIONS NATIONS UNIES

U.N. IN ACTION

Release Date: November 2006

Programme No. 1044

Length: 4'09"

ETHIOPIA: CHILD BRIDES

VIDEO

VARIOUS SHOTS, CHILD
BRIDE WALKING NEAR HUT

TODESE ON-CAMERA

MS CHILD BRIDE SWEEPING
HUT/WATCHING GIRL WALK
BY

VARIOUS SHOTS OF CHILD
BRIDE COOKING, ETC.

AUDIO

NARRATION

Saraye Todese always thought she'd be going to school at this age...always thought she'd have years before she had to take care of and be intimate with a man. But Saraye's school days may be over. At twelve years old she's already been a wife for four months. (14")

SARAYE TODESE: (In Amharic)

"I never met my husband before we got married. I didn't even recognize him on our wedding day." (6")

NARRATION

Saraye's day begins at sunrise, when she cleans the hut she shares with her husband. She doesn't go to school but watches every day as her friends leave...without her. (11")

The early afternoon is spent cooking lunch...She and her husband sit down together...in total silence. (6")

WS OF TREES AND
HUTS/CHILD BRIDE AND
HUSBAND EAT

NARRATION

Dusk falls and the wind picks up...dinner comes and goes and again, silence. (8")

CHILD BRIDE WALKING IN
THE VILLAGE

Saraye is just one of the estimated fifty million child brides across the world. Her home -- the Amhara region of Ethiopia where an estimated one in five girls is married before their tenth birthday. Nearly forty percent are married by age fifteen and some are married as young as five years old. (19")

SHOTS OF VARIOUS GIRLS IN
ETHIOPIA

AMDEMEKAEL ON-CAMERA

HELEN AMDEMEKAEL: (In English)

"Catch girls young; catch them young before they get too smart, before they start asking too many questions." (5")

INTRO SHOT

NARRATION

Helen Amdemekael of the United Nations Population Fund or UNFPA. (4")

WS UNFPA OFFICER
WALKING IN A GARDEN

HELEN AMDEMIKAEL: (In English)

"It's a problem related to gender inequalities. She should not be highly educated /she should be subservient to a man." (10")

INTRO GEBEYAW

NARRATION

A man like Gebeyaw, Sarayes husband, a farmer and a man ten years older than she. (5")

WS CHILD BRIDE AND

GEBEYAW: (In Amharic)

HUSBAND IN HUT

“I decided to marry her because there was no one to cook for me. To get that, I needed a wife.” (8”)

CHILD BRIDE CARRYING A
CANDLE TO BED

NARRATION

In exchange he says, he’ll provide her with security. Security perhaps, but there may be a price to pay. Saraye says what bothers her most of all is what happens at night....(12”)

VARIOUS SHOTS CHILD
BRIDE/HUSBAND IN HUT
CANDLE BEING BLOWN OUT

SARAYE TODESE: (In Amharic)

“I cried the first time I had sex because I didn’t know what it was supposed to be like. It’s not good to get married so young because the girl is forced to have sex with her husband and she will be hurt.” (10”)

BOYS & VILLAGE ELDER
MINISTER OF HEALTH INTRO

NARRATION

Despite all of this, early marriage remains a tradition vehemently defended by many in the community. Ethiopia’s Minister of Health, Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus. (14”)

ON-CAMERA

GHEBREYESUS: (In English)

“This problem is ingrained in our culture and we really have to educate our people in order to address this problem.” (6”)

MS GIRL CARRYING BABY

NARRATION

The government did pass a law in 1998 criminalizing early marriage. But having a law is one thing...enforcing it is another. (7”)

GHEBREYESUS ON-CAMERA

GHEBREYESUS: (In English)

“People should really discuss about this issue

openly and should understand the problems linked with it, then once they understand that they appreciate the problem then they can be part of the solution.” (12”)

VARIOUS SHOTS OF WOMEN
AT HEALTH CENTRE GETTING
CONTRACEPTIVES
PATIENTS AT HOSPITAL

NARRATION

Also part of the solution, birth control pills and injections like these are being provided by UNFPA and given to local married girls and sex workers to cut down on the number of dangerous teen pregnancies. Condoms are also distributed to prevent the spread of HIV/AIDS and obstetric supplies are given to local hospitals and midwives to help with deliveries and reduce the number of young girls injured and dying in childbirth. (25”)

ON-CAMERA

HELEN AMDEMIKAEEL: (In English)

“You find that you have quite a high unmet need of thirty-six percent in the country. So it’s really more a challenge of getting the commodities where they are needed.” (10”)

CHILD BRIDE SITTING IN THE
FIELD OUTSIDE HUT

NARRATION

Until that happens, millions of girls, including Saraye remain at risk. (4”)

UN LOGO

This report was prepared by the United Nations.
(4”)