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MATERNAL MORTALITY IN HAITI AND THE DOMINICAN REPUBLIC

VIDEO

WOMAN GIVES BIRTH

LAURENCEAU ON CAMERA

LAURENCEAU ON CAMERA

AUDIO

NARRATION

Every minute, a woman dies in pregnancy or childbirth somewhere in the world. (4.5)

Ninety-nine percent of these women live in developing countries like the Caribbean nation of Haiti which has the highest maternal mortality rate in the Western Hemisphere. (9.5)

LAURENCEAU: (English) F

"Eighty percent of women give birth at home." (2)

NARRATION

Barbara Laurenceau, Haiti's Deputy Representative of the UN Population Fund, UNFPA. (6)

LAURENCEAU: (English) F

"One very obvious thing is to ensure that women get some contact with the health centre where they live to see if there's any complication." (7.5)

MOTHERS AND CHILDREN

NARRATION

But getting women to seek care at hospitals is not so easy. For thousands of women living in Cite Soleil, a slum area ten miles from Port-au-Prince, years of violence cut health services as many hospitals shut their doors. Alternative measures had to be found says Dr. St. Fleur. (18.5)

DR. ST. FLEUR ON CAMERA

ST. FLEUR: (French) **M**

"We have recruited several agents who go to different neighbourhoods to educate and motivate pregnant women to come to the hospital for care."
(9)

HOSPITAL WAITING ROOM

NARRATION

Most women die during childbirth from haemorrhaging. A problem only made worse because it is difficult for health centres to make blood available, free of HIV. Some attempt risky abortions. (13)

But there are ways to improve the situation for these women. (3)

UNFPA ships reproductive health commodities, which includes contraceptives, to this warehouse in northern Haiti. Some 12,000 injections and 200,000 condoms are distributed monthly to hospitals and health centres. The aim - to minimize maternal deaths and prevent HIV and AIDS. (22)

Some women are opting for tubal ligation like 28-year-old Jacqueline Bien-Aime.(5.5)

BIEN-AIME ON CAMERA

BIEN-AIME: (French Creole) **F**

“I don’t want children anymore. I have to wait to have the operation” (3.5)

DOMINICAN REPUBLIC GVs

NARRATION

Meanwhile in the Dominican Republic where 25 to 30% of childbirths are to adolescents. UNFPA supports similar programmes that include prenatal care and check-ups. (11.5)

MARIA AT THE HEALTH CENTRE

Today, 17-year old, teacher’s aide, Maria Perez, is getting a routine medical exam. She is five months pregnant and single. (9)

MARIA ON CAMERA

MARIA PEREZ: (In Spanish) **F**

“They gave me medication. They told me how to take care of my baby, and that I must not eat very salty meals.” (7)

MARIA AT HOME

NARRATION

Maria lives in this house with her common law husband, 20-year-old Alvaro. The couple is already thinking of planning their family. (8.5)

ALVARO ON CAMERA

ALVARO: (In Spanish) **M**

“Once she has the baby, we will use contraceptive methods.” (3)

CLARIBEL AT HOME

NARRATION

Maria’s sister, Claribel, also lives here with her

common law husband. Fourteen year old, Claribel has a four-month old daughter. She is using injections to avoid future pregnancies. (12.5)

CLARIBEL ON CAMERA

CLARIBEL: (In Spanish) F

“It requires a lot of effort, taking care of the children, cleaning the house, cooking, doing the washing up...I plan not to have more kids.” (8.5)

NARRATION

But more needs to be done say Dr. Alicia Castro. (3.5)

DR. ALICIA CASTRO ON CAMERA

DR. ALICIA CASTRO: (In Spanish) F

“Teenage pregnancy can be avoided in different ways we need to educate parents because there are many who do not have a good orientation. If you teach them values, they will teach them in their homes.” (11)

GENERAL SCENES OF HAITI AND
DOMINICAN REPUBLIC

NARRATION

Local authorities in both Haiti and the Dominican Republic continue to work with UNFPA to reduce maternal mortality and teenage pregnancy. This partnership has already reduced the high rate of maternal mortality considerably. (16.5)

UN LOGO

This report was prepared by Mary Ferreira for the United Nations. (4)