



TV

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FISTULA IN CHAD

VIDEO

MAHANI AMADOU/GENERAL
SHOTS

MAHANI ON-CAMERA

MAHANI WITH HER MOTHER AT
HOSPITAL

MAHANI AT HOSPITAL

AUDIO

NARRATION

Barely out of childhood, Mahani Amadou got married when she was twelve years old. She became pregnant at thirteen. (8)

But Mahani is not alone. Culturally, this is normal for thousands of women in Chad, a country of 10 million people, in north-central Africa. (12)

MAHANI: (In Arabic)

F

"It is too young to get married – 13, 14, 15 – because you are not ready." (5.20)

NARRATION

Mahani lives near Lake Chad, 200 kilometres from the nearest hospital. She went into labour but it took her two days travel by car to reach here. Her baby was stillborn at delivery. (12)

The trauma of childbirth caused a hole to form in her birth canal. This condition is known as obstetric fistula and makes a woman leak urine constantly. (9)

DR. MAHAMAT ON-CAMERA

Dr. MAHAMAT: (In French) **M**

“The pregnancy in a body that hasn’t reached its maturity causes a problem.” (4.20)

INTRO SHOT OF DR. MAHAMAT

NARRATION

Dr. Koyalta Mahamat practices at Liberte Hospital. (3.20)

DR. MAHAMAT ON-CAMERA

DR. MAHAMAT: (In French) **M**

“Forty-seven percent of women affected by fistula are divorced; 9% are abandoned by the husband and her family. Often they live in a house far away and cannot integrate with society or live an ordinary life.” (20)

GENERAL SCENES WITH WOMEN/OPERATION

NARRATION

UNFPA, the UN Population Fund, is encouraging women to undergo surgery. It pays 300 dollars for every operation and gives each woman an additional 60 dollars to help her get back on her feet. (14)

ADAMA AT SHOP

And no one knows this better than Adama Banat, the president of the fistula association. (5.10)

Adama manages this shop where she sells linens and clothing. She was able to start her own business from the subsidy provided by UNFPA.// The women who work here were all fistula patients. It is a first step back to normal life after being shunned by their husbands and families. (20)

NARRATION

ADAMA AT HOME

But for Adama, she was lucky. Her husband stayed with her throughout her illness. Now she is able to earn an income and resume her regular duties. (9.10)

COOKING

In a society where men are predominantly in charge, women often become the backbone of their families. (6.10)

After her stint at the shop, Adama returns home to take care of her family. (4.20)

ADAMA ON-CAMERA

ADAMA: (In French) **F**

‘I am preparing rice and sardines for dinner.’
(2.20)

DAUGHTER COOKING

NARRATION

Her daughter helps with the cooking. (2)

SURGERY

Besides paying for fistula surgery, UNFPA is also supplying equipment used at the hospital.

Dr. Mahamat expects his caseload to increase as more and more women talk about the success of their operations. So far, 456 women have been helped. (16)

Now Mahani has a different outlook on life. After twenty-days of recuperation, she will be going home soon. (7)

MAHANI ON-CAMERA

MAHANI: (In Arabic) **F**

‘My husband can go to other women in the village. I don’t care.’ (3.5)

INTRO TO FATIMATOU

NARRATION

Dr. Djalbord Fatimatou , an expert on reproductive health at the UNFPA office in Chad, is concerned about young girls like Mahani. (8)

FATIMATOU ON-CAMERA

DR. FATIMATOU: (In French) **F**

“We are helping the government to create laws that forbid little girls’ marriage. “ (3.6)

GENERAL VIEWS OF HOSPITAL
AND STREETS WITH WOMEN
WALKING

NARRATION

If the law becomes policy, women under the age of eighteen will be prohibited from marrying. While this will help to reduce the number of fistula cases among young girls, easy access to maternal healthcare is crucial for the elimination of fistula. (14.20)

UN LOGO

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