



TV

# UNITED NATIONS NATIONS UNIES

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## **BURUNDI: FISTULA SURGERY CHANGES LIVES**

### **VIDEO**

GENERAL VIEW OF BURUNDI  
CONSTRUCTION

WOMEN SINGING/

PEOPLE IN HOSPITAL  
COMPOUND

WOMAN PLAYING WITH BABY

HARERIMANA ON-CAMERA

### **AUDIO**

#### **NARRATION**

Burundi, in the Great Lakes region of Africa, is now rebuilding after more than a decade long civil war. (6")

*NATURAL SOUND – SINGING*

And people are finally returning to their usual routine. Women are spending time with the family and focusing on health issues. (7.5")

Every year, some 1,000 women are diagnosed with obstetric fistula in Burundi. Sylvie Harerimana was living with the condition for eight years. (9")

**HARERIMANA:** (In Kurundi) F

*"I couldn't go in public places because people would smell the urine flowing. It was shameful." (5.5")*

NARRATION

WOMAN PREPARING TO GIVE  
BIRTH

Fistula is a relatively common condition in developing countries. It occurs when women endure prolonged labour, sometimes lasting as long as three to seven days. Representative of the United Nations Population Fund, or UNFPA, Barbara Piazzzi-Georgi, explains. (17.5")

INTRO TO BARBARA

PIAZZI-GEORGI: (In English) F

PIAZZI-GEORGI ON CAMERA

*"The baby's head presses against the wall of the vagina for too long...or other similar complications. The tissue of the vagina dies and there remains a fistula – a hole between the vagina and either the urethra in front or sometimes the colon at the back."* (22")

NARRATION

SCHOOL GIRLS IN STREET

According to the World Health Organization, two million women and girls worldwide are living with fistula. (6")

RURAL VILLAGE

Most don't know that it can be treated. Others live in remote villages with no access to clinics or hospitals. But Sylvie was fortunate. (9")

SYLVIE: (In Kirundi)

SYLVIE ON CAMERA

*"I used to listen to the radio. I listened to a broadcast about the condition. I decided to go for an examination."* (7")

NARRATION

Two years ago, fistula was unheard of in

Burundi. A countrywide campaign was launched to alert women about treatment options. (8")

In Bujumbura, the main city, only two surgeons operate on fistula patients. At University Hospital Centre, Dr. Ntukamazina Deogratias, performs two or three simple surgeries each day. (13")

DEOGRATIAS ON CAMERA

DEOGRATIAS: (In French) M

*"We started to operate on women with fistula in 2007. More than 80% of the operations turned out to be successful."* (7.5")

NARRATION

In some cases, women with fistula are marginalized because the illness is little understood. (5")

GAUDENCE SMILING

Forty-three year old Gaudence Karenzo's husband left when he found out she was sick. (4.5")

GAUDENCE ON CAMERA

GAUDENCE: (In Kirundi) F

*"My husband got another wife. The doctors told him to bring me to hospital. He didn't want to do that."* (6.5")

SLUM AREA

NARRATION

Even though treatment is available; most women cannot afford it. More than 80% of Burundians live on less than two dollars a day.

The little money they have is saved for food supplies. (11.5")

PATIENTS BEING CHECKED BY  
DOCTOR/ SALVATORE  
FARMING

UNFPA is now paying for transportation expenses and the cost of surgery to encourage women to seek help. (7")

It has been difficult for Sylvie and her husband, Salvatore. He spent a lot of time caring for her. (5")

SALVATORE ON CAMERA

SALVATORE: (In Kirundi) M  
*"I love my wife and I will keep her because I love her and I've got to take care of her."*  
(4.5")

NARRATION

Sylvie was dismissed from the hospital today.  
(2.75")

SYLVIE AT HOME RESTING

Her experience gives women a glimmer of hope that they too can be treated. It's also a step closer to reaching the goal of eliminating fistula globally by 2015. (10")

UN LOGO

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