



TV

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## FISTULA IN AFGHANISTAN

### VIDEO

CU. FATIMA IN BED

FATIMA WITH NURSE ON  
CAMERA

Cu. FATIMA

### AUDIO

#### NARRATION

Fatima, from a poor village in eastern Afghanistan, suffered two miscarriages in her early 20s. But when she got pregnant again, she could not afford medical care. Like most Afghan women, she went into labour at home with no skilled assistance. (14")

FATIMA: (Afghani) **F**

*"I had pains for two days. Then the baby's head came out but the shoulder got stuck. No one could do anything. Eventually, four people picked up my bed and carried me to the hospital. It took three hours." (13")*

#### NARRATION

Fatima's life was saved, but by the time she got proper care, a hole had formed between her birth canal and bladder: a condition known as obstetric fistula. She constantly smelled of urine. (11")

FATIMA ON CAMERA	<p><u>FATIMA:</u> (Afghani) <b>F</b></p> <p><i>"My life was awful. I had to stay in another room, apart from my family. It made me so sad."</i></p> <p>(6.15")</p>
BURKHA WOMEN ON DONKEYS IN DARAYIM DISTRICT	<p><u>NARRATION</u></p> <p>Fistula is common in Afghanistan, where motherhood is more dangerous than almost anywhere else in the world: one out of eight women's deaths is related to pregnancy and childbirth. (9.8")</p>
PAN REMOTE VILLAGE IN DARAYIM DISTRICT	<p>There are many reasons: early and frequent childbearing, and a lack of midwives, accessible health facilities, decent roads and affordable transport. Poverty, conflict and conservative attitudes also contribute. (12.7")</p>
WOMEN IN BURKHA IN FAIZABAD	
IN MALALAI HOSPITAL, KABUL	<p>Most cases of fistula can be repaired, but treatment was not an option in Afghanistan until last year. Now there is a surgery unit at Kabul's Malalai Maternity Hospital, supported by UNFPA, the UN Population Fund. The news is starting to get around. (16")</p>
OUTSIDE HOSPITAL	
FISTULA WARD	
CU. FATIMA'S HUSBAND W/ SON	<p>In Ghazni province, Fatima and her husband, Mohammed, learned about the new facility. They decided she should go to Kabul, even though they had no money. (8")</p>
WS. WITH NURSE	

MOHAMMED: (Afghani) **M**

MOHAMMED ALI, FATIMA'S  
HUSBAND, ON CAMERA

*"We sold our land to pay for the journey. Bandits robbed us on the way. We had to return home and borrow money... I am so worried about this operation. What if my wife dies? Who will take care of our children?" (11.5")*

NARRATION

CU. MONITOR/PAN TO DOCTOR  
SURGERY

Hospital director Dr. Nasrin Oryakhil led the team that operated on Fatima. The procedure was relatively simple, lasting less than an hour, and the surgeon was relieved. (10.2")

DR. ORYAKHIL ON CAMERA

DR. ORYAKHIL: (English) **F**  
*"This operation was very successful. The dye test was negative. This is a good achievement when we operate on the patient – dye is not coming from the hole. The dye test was negative, and we are very happy and now we have hope." (13")*

NARRATION

MOHAMMED W/ SON

Mohammed Ali was also relieved. (1.7")

MOHAMMED ALI ON CAMERA

MOHAMMED: (Afghani) **M**  
*"I am so grateful that my wife is okay." (1.7")*

NARRATION

MALALAI HOSPITAL SCENES /  
POST-OP TREATMENT

Staff at Malalai have performed more than 72 fistula operations this year, giving women like Fatima a new chance to lead productive lives.

FATIMA IS ROLLED OUT OF THE  
ROOM

There is no charge for the surgery or hospital stay. Surgeons from other provinces are being

SURGERY OPERATION	trained here. And a series of TV and radio ads is making more women with fistula aware of the services. (20.2")
PATIENTS IN BED	Fistula surgery is also now available in the provincial hospital in Badakhshan, which has the highest maternal mortality in Afghanistan. (7.8")
PAN. FAISABAD HOSPITAL	
BASBEBE B-ROLL	One beneficiary suffered from fistula for 20 years. In the few months since her surgery, Basbebe has gone from pariah to community leader, chosen by her neighbours to head the village women's council. (11.4")
BASBEBE W/ GRANDCHILDREN	
BASBEBE ON CAMERA	<u>BASBEBE:</u> (Afghani) <b>F</b> <i>"I'm doing very well. I can walk around, visit other families, and go to other villages."</i> (5.4")
HOSPITAL TRAINING SESSION	<u>NARRATION</u> UNFPA is also helping the Afghan Government mount a campaign to make motherhood safer and prevent fistula. It aims to end early marriage and encourage wider use of health services by promoting the value of women's lives and well-being. Fatima, who got married at 13, now has a chance to start over. (20.4")
NEW BORN W/ MOTHER	
WOMAN SITTING W/ BABY	
CU. FATIMA	
FATIMA ON CAMERA	<u>FATIMA:</u> (Afghani) <b>F</b> <i>"I'll be so happy to go home."</i> (1.5")

NARRATION

UN LOGO

This report was prepared by William Ryan and  
Marc Westhof for the United Nations. (5)