



UNITED NATIONS NATIONS UNIES

U.N. IN ACTION

Release Date: April 2009

Programme No. 1178

Length: 3'47"

Languages: English, French, Spanish, Russian

ETHIOPIA: DANGER OF HOME BIRTHS

VIDEO

PREGNANT WOMAN
DELIVERING

SURGERY ROOM SHOTS

SAMUNI AT HER HOUSE
WITH FAMILY

SAMUNI ON CAMERA

WOMEN CARRYING HEAVY
LOADS

SAMUNI'S HUSBAND
ARRIVING HOME

AUDIO

(NATURAL SOUND)

NARRATION

Every year, some 20,000 women die while giving birth in Ethiopia. (5")

And another 400,000 face life-long disabilities from complications during pregnancy in this poor African Nation. (8")

Five weeks ago, 27-year-old Samuni Kitoh gave birth to a stillborn – her eighth child. She was lucky to survive. (8")

SAMUNI: (Oromiffa) **F**

"My husband thought that the heavy work I was doing was the reason for the stillbirth." (5")

NARRATION

In Ethiopia, it's common for women like Samuni to fetch heavy loads. (5")

She and her husband are subsistence farmers. They depend on their own crops to feed their

COLLECTING GRASS IN
CORNFIELD/SORGHUM
FIELD

family. Barely surviving off the land, they just can't afford the additional medical costs for a hospital delivery. So they rely on the traditional practice of home births. (17.5")

AWASSA HOSPITAL
DOCTOR & STAFF
WORKING

Dr. Lulu Alibechew, practicing at Awassa Hospital, believes that apart from costs, women resist hospitals because of their safety records. (9.5")

Two years ago, there were massive deaths because of a shortage of a critical drug that prevents hemorrhaging. (6")

DR. LULU ON CAMERA

DR. LULU: (English) **M**
"There was no Oxytocin in the country and we lost a lot of mothers because of the lack of this drug." (5")

WORKING WITH PREGNANT
WOMEN, INJECTING
OXYTOCIN IN DRIP BAG

NARRATION
Hemorrhaging is the cause of 23 percent of all maternal deaths in Ethiopia. And Oxytocin is a life saving drug. Without it, this woman would have bled to death when her baby was trapped in her birth canal. (13")

SURGERY ROOM SHOTS

DRUG STORE

To improve maternal health, the government of Ethiopia is determined to implement a primary health-care plan by 2010. In addition to providing clinics and hospitals with free drugs, the plan is also pushing for an increase in family planning and contraceptive says Minister of Health, Dr. Tedros Ghebreyesus. (19")

DR. GHEBREYESUS ON
CAMERA

GHEBREYESUS: (English) M

"If the contraceptive prevalence increases, then mothers will have less labour and less risk."
(5.5")

SAMUNI & HUSBAND AT
GRAVESITE

NARRATION

Samuni can't get over the death of her last baby. She almost lost her life and is not willing to do it again. (6")

SAMUNI ON CAMERA

SAMUNI: (Oromiffa) F

"I thought I was going to die." (2")

SAMUNI GOING TO CLINIC
HEALTH EXTENSION
WORKERS

NARRATION

She took matters into her own hands by visiting a nearby clinic in Kofale, her hometown. After a demonstration, she finally decided to use contraceptives. This means that she must come every three months for new supplies.
(20")

WAREHOUSE WITH
SUPPLIES

The United Nations Population Fund, UNFPA, and its partners gave 25 million dollars to the government to meet its contraceptive needs in support of maternal health. Dr. Monique Rakotomalala, Resident Representative in Ethiopia. (14.75")

DR. RAKOTOMALALA ON
CAMERA

RAKOTOMALALA: (English) F

"The coverage is for two years now. We've bought 25 million dollars of contraceptives, since the programem started in 2004." (8.5")

NARRATION

SAMUNI FEEDING
CHILDREN OR TAKING
CARE OF COWS

Samuni and others are learning that
contraceptives and skilled care at a hospital or
clinic could save lives. (7")

PUBLIC MARKET SHOTS

Ethiopia is striving to double its contraceptive
prevalence rate to 60 percent. But more needs
to be done to ensure a robust health force and
adequate supplies are available to handle the
2.6 million births that occur each year. (15")

UN LOGO

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