



TV

# UNITED NATIONS NATIONS UNIES

## UN IN ACTION

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### TRINIDAD & TOBAGO: TEENAGE MOTHERS

#### VIDEO

CROWDS AT BEACH / BOATS  
BIRD

CROWDS IN THE STREET /  
POOR AREA

PREGNANT TEEN

ESTHER CHECKS ON SLEEPING  
BABY

ESTHER ON CAMERA

#### AUDIO

##### NARRATION

Trinidad & Tobago. An island paradise in the Caribbean of just over one million people. It's blessed with beautiful beaches and breathtaking landscapes which attract hundreds of thousands of tourists every year. (13")

Despite its beauty, the country has its share of problems. One third of the population is under the age of eighteen. And according to the Government, some fourteen percent of pregnant women are teenagers. (13")

Fifteen-year-old Esther is one of them. Still a child herself, she is burdened with the responsibility of raising her daughter, Amelia. (8.5")

ESTHER: (English) F

*"I didn't have much information about contraceptives and protection and I became pregnant."* (9")

ESTHER AT HOME HELPS MOM  
COOK

NARRATION

Esther had to quit school when she became pregnant. Her mother, Juliette Rebiero-Penny, was upset initially but then decided to support her. (9")

MOTHER ON CAMERA

MOTHER: (English) **F**

*"I didn't really take it good as a parent, being a single parent too. Afterwards, I said that you've got to make the best of the situation."* (11")

YOUNG MOTHERS IN STREETS

NARRATION

Many girls, like Esther, reach maturity at a very young age these days. So, it's important for them to know how to protect themselves from unwanted pregnancies. Dr. Gopeesingh, a local gynaecologist. (13")

GOPEESINGH ON CAMERA

GOPEESINGH: (English) **M**

*"There is a lack of sex education in schools. In addition; there is a minimal amount of counselling in terms of advice for teenagers."* (12")

OSCAR OCHO IN OFFICE

NARRATION

But the Government of Trinidad and Tobago is working to address these issues. Director of Population Services, Oscar Ocho. (8.5")

OCHO ON CAMERA

OSCAR OCHO: (English) **M**

*"The Population Programme Unit has been working with the Ministry of Education to provide support on life skills, education programmes*

*including peer support programmes among the young people within the school system, where we deal with issues of sexuality.” (22)*

#### NARRATION

YOUNG PEOPLE IN STREET

Despite these efforts, teenage pregnancy rates are high. And since premarital sex is still considered taboo here, young girls are looking for a quick way out ... even if it means turning to unsafe abortions. (14”)

GOPEESINGH: (English) **M**

GOPEESINGH ON CAMERA

*“There are a number of unplanned pregnancies in teenagers, who undergo backstreet abortions and make use of certain drugs. They are quite aware of drugs that can be used to procure an abortion.” (15”)*

#### NARRATION

ESTHER FEEDS BABY

But not Esther, she wanted to have her baby in spite of the difficulties ahead. (5”)

ESTHER: (English) **F**

ESTHER ON CAMERA

*“I decided to make her because having an abortion, to my knowledge, is not the right thing, and babies should never suffer. I know she would come into this world to live so I carried on with it and didn’t have an abortion.” (14.5”)*

#### NARRATION

FAMILY PLANNING ASSOCIATION

After giving birth, Esther visited the Family Planning Association, FPA to find out how she could prevent another unplanned pregnancy.

ESTHER AT FPA

FPA offers a programme, called “De Living Room” supported by the United Nations Population Fund, UNFPA, to provide adolescents with information about sexuality and contraceptives. Leah-Mari Richards, Liaison officer, UNFPA. (26.5”)

RICHARDS ON CAMERA

RICHARDS: (English) **F**

*“The Family Planning Association, one of our main partners on the ground, has a roving living room that they move to different communities and they talk with young persons and provide them with services.” (9.5”)*

FAMILY PLANNING AT FPA

NARRATION

The programme is giving young people a unique chance to speak freely about sex – something which is rarely discussed at home where traditional values still prevail. It’s playing a vital role in helping teenagers prevent unplanned pregnancies and, ultimately, risky abortions. (18”)

**NATSOT – CALYPSONIAN**

**[TRANSLATION NOT NECESSARY]**

*“Women making children and they’re very young. But now they’re feeling the fall. The must stop that habit and do not do that at all.”*

UN LOGO

NARRATION

This report was prepared by Leon Engler and Mary Ferreira for the United Nations.