



# TV UNITED NATIONS NATIONS UNIES

## UN IN ACTION

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Languages: English, French, Spanish, Russian

### GUYANA: NURSES ON THE MOVE

#### VIDEO

GEORGETOWN – LANDSCAPE

PEOPLE IN THE STREETS

NURSES AT HOSPITALS

JACQUELINE ON CAMERA

JACQUELINE AT WORK

JACQUELINE ON CAMERA

#### AUDIO

##### NARRATION

A country of just over 700,000 people, Guyana is rapidly losing a valuable asset: its skilled nurses. (8")

Lured by offers – as much as 55,000 US dollars a year – far exceeding what they could ever hope to earn back home, some 25 to 50 percent of Guyanese nurses are leaving. (13.5")

##### JACQUELINE GULSTONE: (English) F

*"Economically things became better for me when I came to the United States of America. And that was the reason why I migrated."* (7")

##### NARRATION

But money wasn't the only reason Jacqueline Gulstone left home after receiving free training in Guyana. (6")

##### JACQUELINE GULSTONE: (English) F

*"I wanted to develop myself in terms of my education."* (4")

## NARRATION

NEW YORK CITY SHOTS

Jacqueline eyed the United States as a land of new opportunity. (3.5")

JACQUELINE LEAVES HOME AND DRIVES TO WORK

Settling in Brooklyn, New York, she worked hard to fulfil her dreams. (3.5")

JACQUELINE AT HOME

During the day Jacqueline worked as a nurse; by night she hit the books. (4")

BROOKDALE HOSPITAL

Today she's a nurse practitioner at Brookdale Hospital Medical Center. (4")

American hospitals like this one are starved for nurses. (3")

Brookdale's Director of Nursing, Susan Pennacchio, says too few nurses are graduating from American schools. (6.5")

PENNACHIO ON CAMERA

PENNACHIO: (English) **F**  
*"The reason why we can't train enough nurses here is because they don't have enough nursing instructors."* (3.5")

## NARRATION

NURSES AT BROOKDALE HOSPITAL

To handle its workload, Brookdale is forced to recruit from abroad. But what's helping the

NURSES IN GUYANA

U.S. is hurting Guyana. The United Nations Population Fund, UNFPA, is assisting the government with funds to tackle healthcare

ROBINSON WALKS

issues. Harold Robinson, Director for the Caribbean region, believes that the exodus of

ROBINSON TEACHES SEMINAR

nurses is affecting progress. (25.5)

ROBINSON ON CAMERA

ROBINSON: (English) **M**

*"...all the efforts, not only the country's efforts in reducing maternal mortality but all the health sector efforts are really constrained by this out migration." (10.5")*

GUYANA NURSING SCHOOL  
NURSES IN CLASS

NARRATION

Over the last 50 years, Guyana has trained thousands of highly qualified nurses. But as fast as they train new ones, other countries are scooping them up. Minister of Health, Dr. Leslie Ramsammy. (13.5")

RAMSAMMY IN OFFICE

RAMSAMMY: (English) **M**

RAMSAMMY ON CAMERA

*"Let's not have any doubt and make no bones about it, migration of our health workers impacts severely on achieving health for all." (10.5")*

NURSES IN CLASSROOM

NARRATION

To compensate for expected losses of nurses, Guyana has already increased class sizes. This year alone some 700 students are enrolled – close to half will leave. (12")

NURSES AT WORK

In exchange for free training, all Guyanese nurses sign a contract agreeing to work between five and eight years in the country. If they break their contract, they must reimburse the government. (11.5")

JACQUELINE ON CAMERA

JACQUELINE GULSTONE: (English) **F**

*"I had almost completed my contract – probably a couple of months short of that before I left but I still had to pay some money." (5.5")*

## NARRATION

JACQUELINE CARRIES LUGGAGE  
WITH MEDICINE

But now Jacqueline is anxious to repay some of her country's investment in her training. She visits Guyana three times a year to provide care to those in under-served communities. (12.5")

JACQUELINE IN GUYANA CARES  
FOR PATIENTS

PATIENTS RECEIVE MEDICINE

It's an on-going battle for Guyana to guarantee decent healthcare for all. And with the constant flow of nurses leaving – that goal may be harder to achieve than ever. (10")

NURSE AT WORK

UN LOGO

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