



TV

UNITED NATIONS NATIONS UNIES

U.N. IN ACTION

Week of 8 February 2005

Programme No. 943

Length: 3'44"

UN AGENCY FACILITATES ID PAPERS TO VULNERABLE COLOMBIANS

VIDEO

UNHCR VAN (15")

CONVOY (19")

VILLAGE (12")

AUDIO

NARRATION

Driving down the back roads of Colombia South America...a convoy of trucks brings aid to those in need. (6")

This time there's a new truck hitting the road. And it's doing something that's never been done before.

It's a fully loaded government ID unit on wheels. Its goal – to bring fast-track identity documentation to thousands of indigenous people and to hundreds of thousands of war victims displaced by four decades of civil war.

Without proof of their identity, these groups have no rights of citizenship. They have no access to schools...health clinics...even the opportunity to open a business.

NARRATION
ARMY SEARCH/CHECK IDS (16") Without an ID, they're under constant suspicion for illegal activity when crossing numerous checkpoints set up by the many different armed factions fighting for control of Colombia. Aldo Morales from the UN Refugee Agency UNHCR....

MORALES: (In Spanish)
MORALES ON-CAMERA (10") "When the population travels and encounters checkpoints, they can face tremendous security risks."

NARRATION
POOR PEOPLE (6") And in a crisis, they can't obtain government-issued emergency food, money, and shelter.

ROADWAY (12") But now, UNHCR and Colombia's Registry Office launched a campaign to get out, and get the documents to the people --even in the most remote and dangerous areas.

VILLAGE SCENE (7") Here in the village of El Paraiso, hundreds of miles from the nearest city, the mobile unit arrives...fully loaded.

PEOPLE (22") Hundreds line up. Villagers are fingerprinted...personal data, even blood type is collected....Inside the truck, pictures are taken....Everything is then transmitted on-the-spot by satellite communication to the National Registry Office in the capitol, Bogotá.

NARRATION

COMPUTER SCREEN (22")

Here, the information is given priority status as it's downloaded...processed...and archived. The National Office simply does not have the resources to reach those so far away says Colombia's National Director of Identification Rodrigo Perez Monroy...

MONROY ON-CAMERA (19")

MONROY: (In Spanish)

"UNHCR has become a fundamentally important partner. This is because they can get to places which our staff can't."

VAN/DISTRIBUTING IDs (14")

NARRATION

Within two months the IDs are rushed back to their eager owners, most of whom now hold proof of their citizenship for the first time in their lives. Mariel Uriana is a teacher in El Paraiso...

URIANA ON-CAMERA (7")

URIANA: (In Spanish)

"The reason for all this interest is that the document is being requested for healthcare and access to education."

RECEIVING ID CARDS (11")

NARRATION

Over one-hundred and eighty thousand Colombians have received identification cards...Thousands more wait for the ID truck to reach them.

UN LOGO (10")

This report was prepared by Chaim Litewski for the United Nations.