



TV UNITED NATIONS NATIONS UNIES

U.N. IN ACTION

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IAEA IMPROVES CANCER THERAPY IN SRI LANKA

VIDEO

MRS. MALKHANTI HANGING
UP LAUNDRY, HUSBAND
CARRIES WATER BUCKETS

RADIATION TREATMENT IN
AFRICA

HOSPITAL IN KANDY,
CROWDED ROOMS,
PEOPLE SHARING A BED

DR. MOHAMED EL-BARADEI
ON CAMERA

AUDIO

NARRATION

Mrs. Malkanti, once employed as a maid here in Sri Lanka, is now too weak to work. She's battling two deadly enemies...cancer...and poverty. (11)

And she's far from alone. Cancer kills more people worldwide than AIDS, tuberculosis and malaria combined. And in the developing world, the number of new cases is expected to double within the next decade. Still, many of these poorer countries lack the sophisticated treatments -- like radiation therapy - to fight this battle. Dr. Mohamed El-Baradei, Director General of the International Atomic Energy Agency, IAEA. (29)

El-Baradei:

"There are fifteen countries in Africa who do not have any radiotherapy machines. Ethiopia, a country with sixty million people, has only one radiotherapy machine -- so the situation is unacceptable." (11)

RADIATION TREATMENT
ROOM, TECHNICIANS
ADJUST MACHINE

NARRATION

Unacceptable because without access to radiation therapy - and the money to pay for it if it does exist - many patients have little chance of survival. Professor Rohini Hewamanna, chairperson of Sri Lanka's Atomic Energy Agency. (15)

PROF. ROHINI HEWAMANNA
ON-CAMERA

HEWAMANNA:

"If you can give the treatment at the correct time, you save so much, you save so much human agony." (5.5)

NARRATION

Professor Hewamanna should know...she herself is a cancer survivor. And that's why she supports a move by the IAEA to provide state-of-the-art radiotherapy equipment and specialized training to more than eighty countries worldwide, including this hospital in Sri Lanka. (18)

DR. SARATH WATTAGAMA
EXAMINING MRS. MALKANTI

The therapy here is free, essential for those like Mrs. Malkanti, whose one-dollar a day income can't cover the ten-dollar a week treatment. Chief Radiologist, Dr. Wattagama. (12.5)

DR. SARATH WATTAGAMA,
RADIO-ONCOLOGIST, ON
CAMERA

WATTAGAMA:

"We are now treating them more effectively, we are targeting the cancer more aggressively and we are promoting cancer prevention." (11)

NARRATION

MRS. MALKANTI AT HOME

Doctors say that with quality treatment more than forty-five percent of all cancer patients in developing countries will survive. A fact that Mrs. Malkanti, and thousands of others, is counting on. (12)

UN LOGO

This report was prepared by the United Nations. (3)