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Week of 22 December 2003

Programme No. 884

Duration: 3'09"

## UNFPA SUPPORTS LESOTHO IN THE FIGHT AGAINST HIV/AIDS

### VIDEO

WOMAN IN FRONT OF A HUT  
(15")

MATSEKISO PAKALITHA ON-  
CAMERA (8")

HOSPITAL/WORKSHOP (20")

### AUDIO

#### NARRATION

Matsekiso Pakalitha (Ma-sa-keeso Pa-ka-deeta) , a mother of two, lives in the village of Paeleaitlhatswa ( Pae-lea-iekatso) in the kingdom of Lesotho. Recently she's become aware of the dangers of taking addictive substances and other life threatening behaviour.

#### PAKALITHA: (local dialect)

"I learned that drugs are very dangerous and some how are related to AIDS which is also very dangerous and can kill people."

#### NARRATION

Her awareness of the need to be conscious of health issues came about through the work of a training centre for young people near the capital, Maseru. This youth project operates out of St. Joseph Hospital. Young volunteers are being educated in the dangers of AIDS.

Their mission: to teach their peers how to avoid contracting the disease and to stay healthy, in general.

YOUTH GROUP IN VILLAGE  
(10)

Equipped with knowledge and enthusiasm, the volunteers reach out to local communities through direct contact.

YOUTH GROUP MEETING  
VILLAGERS (13)

Matsekiso's village is one of the communities visited. AIDS, alcohol, drugs and smoking were the main issues discussed with the villagers.

DEBATE (17.5")

In a country where nearly 25 percent of the actual population is infected, the volunteers work hard to convince local communities that they can contract HIV by using intravenous drugs. Many villagers, however, are not convinced yet that drinking or smoking is harmful to their health. It leads to a lively debate.

WOMEN GROUP (16")

For more discussions, villagers spread out into smaller groups. Women are among the most affected by HIV/AIDS and other sexually transmitted diseases. And the message seems to be getting through – at least to Matsekiso.

PAKALITHA ON-CAMERA  
(5.5")

PAKALITHA: (local dialect)

"I will apply what I learned today in my daily life."

CHILDREN GROUP (17)

NARRATION

HIV/AIDS does not spare the youngest and most vulnerable Lesothans. Children too become infected, or lose their parents to the killer virus. Talking to them at an early age can save their lives.

COUNCELLORS MEET  
HUSBAND AND WIFE (23")

Because not all villagers attend the public meetings, the youth councillors go house-to-house spreading the word about the evils of AIDS. This outreach work is a joint project of the government of Lesotho and the United Nations Fund for Population Activities, UNFPA. Lesotho's Director of Youth Affairs is Phomolo Mohapeloa.

PHOMOLO MOHAPELOA ON-  
CAMERA (22")

MOHAPELOA:

"Through the support of UNFPA, we are able to go to the two districts in Lesotho – this is at the pilot stage – to have the young people trained so that they can go and train others who can help the rest of the youth in the country."

PEOPLE (21")

NARRATION

The need is enormous. With so many already infected, combating the virus in Lesotho and other heavily affected countries is a huge priority for the international community. The peer outreach programme is just one of the steps that will be needed to contain and eventually defeat the virus.

LOGO (20")

This report was prepared by Kamil Taha for the United Nations.