



TV

UNITED NATIONS NATIONS UNIES

U.N. IN ACTION

Week of 26 April 2004

Programme No. 902

Length: 2'47"

UN SUPPORTS WOMEN'S DEVELOPMENT IN BOUGAINVILLE

VIDEO

WOMEN SING (19")

BOXES FILLED WITH WEAPONS
(19")

THERESA JAINTONG ON-
CAMERA (13")

AUDIO

After years of war, these women are singing songs of peace. They are from Bougainville, a province of Papua New Guinea, a Pacific nation. Women here played a major role in fostering the peace process by lobbying and pleading with men to lay down their weapons.

All this they achieved with the help of the UN, the international community and the overwhelming support of the people of Bougainville. Years of bloody secessionist conflict finally came to an end in 2001 when a peace agreement was signed. Theresa Jaintong from Bougainville's Council of Women.

JAINTONG:

"The women here in Bougainville, we are traditionally the leaders, so we started talking to our children, talking to our husbands, our family members, our clan members that enough was enough and then we made a difference there."

NARRATION

MONTAGE OF WOMEN (32")

Women here have traditionally wielded considerable power. Bougainville is a matrilineal society. It is the woman's line that determines kinship, inheritance and use of land. But the war robbed women of much of their power and the opportunity of attending school and learning a trade. The UN Development Programme, UNDP, is actively supporting vocational projects aimed at giving women a better future. UNDP's Bernard Choulai...

CHOULAI:

BERNARD CHOULAI ON-CAMERA (11")

"This is a training centre for young women, and once again, it targets the teenagers and young adults that missed out on their education."

NARRATION

GUEST HOUSE/COOKING (15")

It's a comprehensive 26 -week training programme. It includes running Bougainville's largest guest room facilities, catering and many other employment-related courses. But less conventional skills are taught here too.

CLASS (13")

Women are learning the art of political power and persuasion. These girls are being taught leadership and interpersonal communications, skills vital to their future, says teacher Patrick Itta.

ITTA:

PATRICK ITTA ON-CAMERA (10")

"These young women have got the potential of going back to their village situation as potential women leaders. For leaders the communication is

so important.”

NARRATION

WOMEN ARRIVE AND TALK
(22.5”)

Led by Theresa Jaintong, members of the island’s Council of Women arrive at the facility. Bougainville’s Women’s Centre is also housed here. Women groups often meet to discuss economic and social issues. Helping the island’s women to regain their traditional place in society is one sure way to consolidate the peace process in Bougainville.

UN LOGO (12”)

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