



TV UNITED NATIONS NATIONS UNIES

U.N. IN ACTION

Week of 9 August 2004

Programme No. 917

Length: 3'42"

UNICEF SUPPORTS MALAWI AIDS ORPHANS

VIDEO

MICHAEL WITH SIBLINGS (13")

AUDIO

NARRATION

15-year old Michael Karamba and his brothers and sisters live with relatives in the city of Salima east of the Malawi capital Lilongwe. Their parents died of AIDS several years ago.

MICHAEL & BROTHERS
WALKING (12")

The Karamba brothers attend a regular Malawi school. Michael is in his first year at the secondary level. Every Saturday, they join hundreds of other orphans in a special programme.

MICHAEL ON-CAMERA (11")

KARAMBA: (local dialect)

"My brothers and sisters and I go to the SASO counselling centre. We attend classes on HIV/AIDS. We receive counselling. We enjoy sports and they provide us with some food."

PEOPLE (15")

NARRATION

Malawi is one of the African countries hard hit by HIV/AIDS. More than 25% of its adult population are infected with the deadly virus. Parents are dying fast and families are disintegrating.

NARRATION

ORPHANS (19")

Today, there are more than one million orphans in the country desperately in need of assistance. In 1994, a group of people affected by HIV/AIDS established the Salima AIDS Support Organization or SASO. One of its goals is to look after AIDS orphans.

SASO CENTRE AND ORPHANS (18")

Supported by the United Nations Children's Fund, UNICEF, SASO established a special weekly programme for AIDS orphans. On every Saturday, hundreds of orphans converge on this centre in Salima near lake Nyasa. UNICEF Representative in Malawi is Catherine Mbenge.

MBENGE:

CATHERINE MBENGE ON-CAMERA (13")

"SASO is helping them to better understand what are the types of psychological problems that orphans are facing: grief for the parents who are either sick or dead."

NARRATION

COUNSELLING (14")

The children receive private counselling. Many of them have been traumatized by the death of their parents. SASO also educates them about the dangers of HIV/AIDS and how to protect themselves against the disease.

FOOD DISTRIBUTION (13")

Whether they stay with extended families or in foster homes, most orphans live in abject poverty. SASO treats them to a hot meal. Its staff and

NARRATION

volunteers prepare, cook and serve the food.

ART CLASS (10.5")

The Saturday programme also sharpens the orphans talents and skills. It includes special classes aimed at helping students find paid employment after graduation.

KARAMBA:

MICHAEL ON-CAMERA (10")

"After I finish high school, I plan to find a job and stay with my foster parents. I will help my parents and my brothers and sisters. I have no plans to move away."

NARRATION

TRADITIONAL DANCING (9")

Music is popular among the youngsters. They are also taught Malawi traditional dances. It's a way to help them cope with the loss of their parents.

MEMORY BOOK (8.5")

The centre provides the children with psychosocial support. They are encouraged to write in memory books about their personal experiences.

CHILDREN PLAYING (17")

Malawi is one of the poorest countries in Africa if not in the world. Caring for the increasing numbers of AIDS orphans is stretching the means of this African country to the breaking point. Without international assistance, Malawi's orphans face a bleak future.

NARRATION

LOGO (12")

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