



TV

# UNITED NATIONS NATIONS UNIES

## U.N. IN ACTION

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Week of 13 September 2004

Programme No. 922

Length: 3'26"

### UNICEF BRINGS FRESH WATER TO VILLAGES IN NICARAGUA

#### VIDEO

WOMAN DRAWS WATER FROM  
WELL (16")

#### AUDIO

#### NARRATION

In this poor rural area of Nicaragua in Central America, like anywhere in the world, pure water is essential for life. So when water here was found to be poisoned with naturally occurring arsenic, the health of everyone in the community was seriously threatened.

JOSE LUIS MARTINEZ ON-  
CAMERA (14")

#### Martinez: (In Spanish)

"We started drinking the water and since then the diseases began to appear. Today, I thank God I'm alive because according to the analysis of this poison we should all be dead by now."

JOSE WITH GOAT (11")

#### NARRATION

Jose Martinez lost his eyesight and many people died or were left with severe long-term health problems. Among the victims were many children who developed skin diseases.

ROSA MARIA RUIZ ON-CAMERA  
(9")

RUIZ: (In Spanish)

"We have been drinking this water since we were very small. Often after we wash our skin itches."

EZEQUIL INSPECTS WORK (10")

NARRATION

Most of the population in this poor rural area fell ill says Mayor Ezequil Martinez.

EZEQUIL MARTINEZ ON-CAMERA (18")

MARTINEZ: (In Spanish)

"Out of seven communities, six have been very affected by people drinking the water."

WORKERS DIG TRENCH (22")

NARRATION

Help is now coming to some 480 families, over 2,000 people, who will receive fresh water thanks to support from the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) and other agencies. Key to the success of the project is community participation. Eiling Suarez is a mother of five and also a member of the committee to bring safe water to her village.

EILING SUAREZ ON-CAMERA  
(12")

SUAREZ: (In Spanish)

"Before we had to walk two kilometres to the well in order to bring a little bit of water to wash. Now we have water in the home."

VILLAGE COMMITTEE MEETING  
(14")

NARRATION

Eiling and her neighbours formed the committee to oversee the construction. Technical experts have contributed their skills to help complete the project quickly. The New system will correct a serious

NARRATION

environmental problem says engineer, Marta Vega.

VEGA: (In Spanish)

MARTA VEGA ON-CAMERA (20")

"We know that the wells are contaminated, this is one of the problems here. With the new well their health will improve, so this will be a great benefit."

NARRATION

SCHOOL CHILDREN CARRY  
WATER PIPES (24")

During a break from their classes, these youngsters are eager to help out. Children are most vulnerable to the deadly effects of arsenic poisoning, so they have a special interest in helping bring safe water to their homes. They are learning that the right to fresh water is a human right too, says UNICEF's Phillip Barragne.

BARRAGNE: (In Spanish)

PHILLIPE BARRAGNE ON-  
CAMERA (11")

"We are supporting the rural Nicaraguan population to demand their rights, which is a fundamental right, the right to fresh water."

NARRATION

KIDS WASH HANDS (18")

Now these children have the opportunity to grow up healthy thanks to a plentiful supply of pure water and instruction about hygiene in school and at home. Through the commitment of all concerned, arsenic-free, fresh water will flow for the benefit of the whole community.

NARRATION

UN LOGO (12")

This report was prepared by Richard Sydenham for  
the United Nations.