



# UNITED NATIONS NATIONS UNIES

## U.N. IN ACTION

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Week of 25 October 2004

Programme No. 928

Length: 3'22"

### HONDURAN WOMEN FIGHT AGAINST IGNORANCE AND ISOLATION CAUSED BY HIV/AIDS

#### VIDEO

MARIA DAVID AT RALLY WITH  
HER CHILDREN

MARIA DAVID ON CAMERA

REINA AND MARIA MEET

REINA DIRECTING LOADING OF  
BUSES

BUS TRAVELLING

#### AUDIO

#### NARRATION

Maria is a courageous woman. Rather than suffer silently she wants people at this rally to know that she has had the HIV virus. (9")

#### DAVID:

"I have been living with this disease for 13 years. I thank God I'm alive." (7")

#### NARRATION

Late in the evening, Maria meets Reina, a UN Volunteer and community organizer, to discuss last minute details for next day's rally against AIDS. Not wanting to be left out, Maria's children Morellia age 7 and Angelita, age 4, look on, half asleep. Tomorrow will be a very exciting and important day for their family. (23")

Early next morning, marchers from Comayagua load the bus and drive to La Paz for the rally. (6")

#### NARRATION

It's estimated that some 20,000 people are HIV

positive or living with AIDS in Honduras, making it the country with the most HIV cases in Central America. The National AIDS Forum was created, with the support of the UN, to help people understand the disease and how to prevent it and to promote the rights of people living with HIV and AIDS. (23")

JEFFREY AVINA

And it's been a remarkable success. In just two years the forum has become a powerful movement for social change, says UN Co-ordinator Jeffrey Avina. (8")

AVINA:

JEFFREY AVINA ON CAMERA

"What we have now is a body whereby people infected with AIDS have a place at the table with government ministers to discuss questions about their rights as individuals, their rights to jobs, their rights to medications." (10")

NARRATION

AIDS-AWARENESS  
PERFORMANCES

The AIDS Forum stages rallies and parades, and uses entertainment to spread information about HIV/AIDS in the community. UN Volunteer Reina Castillo. (11")

CASTILLO:

CASTILLO ON CAMERA

“What we found is that when the woman gets the HIV virus she is more discriminated against than men are, because they believe it is due to irresponsible behaviour on the woman’s part.” (11”)

STREET PERFORMANCE

NARRATION

Despite the risk of becoming a social outcast, Maria has made it her mission to speak out, for herself, for her young family and for the thousands of women in Honduras who are afraid to tell anyone of their plight. (13”)

MARIA ON CAMERA

DAVID:

“When you first find out you have HIV you don’t talk to people about it. But when you join a group you relate more.” (9”)

REINA WITH MARIA AND FAMILY

NARRATION

Through the commitment of women like Maria and a supportive network of volunteers, other women suffering from HIV and AIDS may overcome their fear and isolation. And, with more open communication and information, they may help protect their families against this disease. (17”)

LOGO (12”)

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