



TV

UNITED NATIONS NATIONS UNIES

U.N. IN ACTION

Week of 28 March 2005

Programme No. 950

Length: 2'49"

AIDS ADVOCATE IN ZAMBIA

VIDEO

MIRIAM BANDA WITH CROWD AT
MARKET

PEOPLE

ZAMBIAN MAN ON-CAMERA

MIRIAM ON-CAMERA

ZAMBIAN PEOPLE/ AIDS
PATIENTS

AUDIO

NARRATION

Miriam Banda's day kept getting worse. (2.5)

The AIDS educator was trying to speak to people gathered at a market in her home country of Zambia. (6.5)

(NATURAL SOUND – CROWD OF MEN)

But her words – “abstinence”, “condoms”, “get tested” – were falling on deaf ears. (7)

MAN:

“The protection a condom gives, does not work” (2.5)

MIRIAM:

“My people still have excuses. Even when you see all the symptoms and somebody dies, they will tell you they were bewitched. There are some that are still cynical about it and say there is no AIDS here and we are not sick.” (15)

NARRATION

CEMETERY FOOTAGE (12")

But Miriam knows better – five years ago she was diagnosed HIV positive. Today she is one of forty-million people infected worldwide – more than half live in Sub-Saharan Africa. (13.5)

MIRIAM ON-CAMERA

MIRIAM:

“It’s very, very serious. It’s so serious that in my heart I wish my government would declare it a national disaster.” (8)

NARRATION

What her government did do was, in 2002 for the first time ever, commit money and resources to a national strategy to fight AIDS. (9.5)

The best way to fight -- go directly to the people with prevention and support programs. And that’s exactly what Miriam is doing... (8)

MIRIAM AT MARKET/SCHOOL

Together with the United Nations Development Programme, she and hundreds of other workers target the most vulnerable – the poor – at local markets and farms throughout Zambia...handing out brochures...answering questions...providing facts. (17)

(NATURAL SOUND)

MIRIAM MEETS GROUP OF HIV POSITIVE WOMEN

Also visited – hundreds of schools where teachers are encouraged to talk openly with their students about sex. (7)

(NATURAL SOUND)

NARRATION

MIRIAM TALKING TO WOMEN

As for those already infected with the disease, instead of silence and denial... they're met with counselling and a safe place to talk about strategies for living with AIDS. (11.5)

(NATURAL SOUND)

While workers know that changing myths, misperceptions, and behaviours is an enormous challenge, they say the work must begin somewhere. (9.5)

MIRIAM ON-CAMERA

MIRIAM:

"Sometimes I feel helpless. But then again I know it's a day at a time, a little bit by a little bit. A long journey starts with a mile." (9)

NARRATION

A journey that a devastated nation hopes will spare tens of thousands from a deadly enemy. (6.5)

LOGO (10")

This report was prepared by Kamil Taha for the United Nations. (4)