



TV

UNITED NATIONS NATIONS UNIES

U.N. IN ACTION

Week of 2 May 2005

Programme No. 955

Duration: 2'50"

TSUNAMI DISPLACES WOMEN IN SRI LANKA

VIDEO

AUDIO

NARRATION

MOTHER

The blank stare of a young mother... (1.5)

MOTHER CRYING

A pregnant woman who cries at the thought of raising her baby at the shelter she now calls home... (5.4)

MOSQUE

These, and thousands of other women in Sri Lanka, are still haunted by the pain and loss of the deadly tsunami. (6.4)

CHILDREN

And now there's something else...talk of a new danger lurking that may threaten all displaced women...and young girls across Sri Lanka's devastated coast. (9)

The threat of sexual violence. (1.4)

LUBNA: (English)

LUBNA ON-CAMERA

"In the early days, there were a lot of reports of sexual and gender-based violence." (4)

NARRATION

INTRODUCTION

Lubna Baqi heads the UN's Population Fund, UNFPA, in Sri Lanka. (4.5)

LUBNA: (English)

LUBNA ON-CAMERA

“...to a certain extent, the community is not ready to accept - after this huge disaster has happened – reports on sexual and gender based violence.” (11)

NARRATION

CHILDREN PLAYING NEAR TENTS

While there are no exact figures on assaults post-tsunami, officials fear that with the destruction came conditions ripe for such violence -- thousands of women and children displaced and local police forces yet to fully reorganize. (13)

And while it may seem there is safety in numbers at the temporary camps, many are left vulnerable. Children and women are often alone....playing...gathering water...going to the bathroom. (11)

Those in the camps need to be more aware of the risks says Baqi. (3.3)

LUBNA: (English)

LUBNA ON-CAMERA

“For instance the toilets are too far, the washing facilities are too far, to accompany young girls to these facilities. These things can make a big difference.” (9)

NARRATION

LATHA IN CAMP

That's why local aid workers like Latha Wijersiri visit the shelters to encourage the men to act as a kind of makeshift security force. (8)

LATHA:

LATHA ON-CAMERA

"We talk to the men and it's important that we teach them how to protect their women, their children and themselves." (8)

NARRATION

But these efforts alone are not enough. With an estimated 80% of sexual crimes going unreported before the tsunami, UNFPA says women need encouragement to come forward. (10)

LUBNA:

LUBNA ON-CAMERA

"You need to put in place safe spaces for women to be able to go and talk about their needs in a confidential manner and in a non-threatening manner, in a manner that they feel safe to confide in somebody." (12)

NARRATION

Experts agree that in the months ahead, protecting women from future trauma is a critical step in rebuilding a nation that has already endured so much. (8.5)

UN LOGO

This report was prepared by the United Nations.
(3)