

STORY: PERU/CANDOSHI

TRT: 2:23

SOURCE: UNICEF

RESTRICTIONS: NONE

LANGUAGE: SPANISH/ENGLISH

DATELINE: 1 OCTOBER 2004, ALTO AMAZONAS, PERU

Shot list:

ALTO AMAZONAS, PERU / 1 OCTOBER 2004

1. Medium shot of a woman lying in a hammock.
2. Med, tracking shot of students in a classroom.
3. Med shot of a Candoshi girl cutting something.
4. Med shot of a man drinking from a large wooden bowl.
5. Med shot of a mother and son walking outdoors.
6. Med shot of two girls by the river bank.
7. Med shot of a woman and another woman holding a child. All three are looking out from a run down structure.
8. Close up, pan right from a mother to daughter.
9. Med shot of a boy standing by the laundry line on a tree.
10. Med shot of a woman and two girls. The woman is touching the face of her daughter who is lying down.
11. Extreme CU of a man wearing face paint.
12. Med shot of a mother breastfeeding her child.
13. Med shot of a group of health workers.
14. Med shot of a health worker talking to a mother with her newly born baby.
15. Med shot of the health worker smiling at the baby.
16. Zoom in, tracking shot from the mother to the baby.
17. Med shot of the father, mother, and baby.
18. CU of the baby.
19. CU of a group of boys.
20. CU of a boy.
21. SOUNDBITE: DR. Mario Tavera, UNICEF Peru Health Official (Spanish/ English dubbing)
"Up until about 12 months ago only 40 children were vaccinated every year. But in the past 12 months alone we have increased that figure to 143 children, eighty one per cent of those we have reached within the first 24 hours after they were born."
22. Wide shot of a river.
23. Med shot of people canoeing.
24. Wide shot of villagers by the river bank waiting for the health workers to arrive.
25. Med shot of a health worker hauling an ice box from the canoe.
26. Med shot of children watching.
27. Med shot of a health worker getting off the canoe.
28. CU of a mini fridge.
29. CU, pan up of vaccination supplies inside the fridge.
30. CU of vaccination bottles.
31. Med shot of a health worker carrying an ice box.
32. Med shot of a health worker patting and walking past with a pregnant woman carrying a big bowl on her head.

33. Med shot of the health worker examining the pregnant woman's belly.
34. CU of the woman.
35. CU of the baby being vaccinated.
36. Med shot of village children sitting outside on the ground.
37. CU of a girl.
38. Med shot of three girls.
39. Med shot of a girl carrying a child.
40. CU, pan left from a boy to another boy.
41. Med shot of two girls.
42. Med shot of students in a classroom.
43. CU of a boy playing with a string over his head.
44. Med shot of a girl running with a bowl.
45. Med shot of a girl holding a baby.

Story line:

LIMA, 13 June 2005 - UNICEF and the Ministry of Health of Peru have launched a vaccination campaign to stop a Hepatitis B epidemic, which is threatening to possibly wipe out two extremely reclusive indigenous groups of Candoshi and Shapra in the Upper Amazon. The campaign, started in September 2003, will stretch more than 15 years.

In 2003, the Hepatitis B epidemic infiltrated all 49 communities and affected over 3,000 people in Candoshi and Shapra. One of the best ways to stop the outbreak is to vaccinate newborn babies during the first 24 hours of their life, and to supply subsequent doses to children before the age of six months.

The campaign is highly complex; almost all the births take place at home in geographically isolated communities. To reach their destination, UNICEF staff need to travel at least two and half days from Lima to the town of San Lorenzo. From here, an additional journey is necessary to reach the Candoshis and Shapras.

"We trained a Candoshiner, one of the locals," explained UNICEF Representative in Peru, Andres Franco. "He has proven to be instrumental to the campaign. He knows the people, the language, and he is convinced that this is the way to save his people from extinction. We have explained to him in numbers if we don't act now, in 10 years, everyone in his community will be gone."

UNICEF also provided a crucial cold chain network by supplying seven vaccination posts with solar refrigerators, and nine motor boats to transport vaccines and health workers. Through anthropological study, UNICEF has found that traditional perceptions and knowledge show great willingness for the communities to accept vaccinations. They also have showed great willingness to introduce change to their habits and customs to avoid contagion with the disease.

Since the beginning of the campaign, 245 of the 298 newborn – almost 82 per cent - were vaccinated within 24 hours of birth. Another 83 health workers were trained to report pregnancies to health facilities, and to inform the communities about Hepatitis B prevention.

In June 2005, two groundbreaking donations were given to UNICEF from the Finnish government, almost \$11.7 million. The donations aim to boost the living standards of some of the world's poorest and most excluded children – including the Candoshis and Shapras.

Working with the Ministry of Health, the ongoing campaign aims to enable a new generation of the Candoshis and Shapras free of Hepatitis B. "The Finnish contribution is really going to give us an arm to reach out to more indigenous children in the Amazon," remarked Mr. Franco. "They are

the largest grants ever given to UNICEF in the region, and will benefit an estimated 100,000 children.”

Ends

Voice over:

For the past decade, the presence of the Hepatitis B virus has endangered the lives of two ethnic groups of the Peruvian Amazon; the Candoshi and the Shapra. Researchers believe that foreigners in the region brought the virus into the Peruvian province of Alto Amazonas infecting the villagers. 1996 survey revealed that 74 per cent of the Candoshi people were infected with the HB virus. The infection had become an epidemic. In an effort to prevent the extinction of the Candoshi and Shapra, UNICEF Peru in collaboration with the Peruvian Ministry of Health launched in September, 2003 an emergency program with two major aims; vaccinate all new borns within the first 24 hours of birth and complete vaccination before the age of six months. Results are encouraging.

SOUNDBITE: DR. Mario Tavera, UNICEF Peru Health Official (Spanish/ English dubbing)
“Up until about 12 months ago only 40 children were vaccinated every year. But in the past 12 months alone we have increased that figure to 143 children, eighty one per cent of those we have reached within the first 24 hours after they were born.”

An important figure considering the difficult geographic condition of this remote part of Peru. Here, the only means of transport is by river. Travel between certain communities might take up to four days. The implementation of the UNICEF Peru program included the donation of nine motor boats and additional equipment to maintain an efficient cold chain for the vaccines. The UNICEF contribution has made it possible for health workers to reach the most remote communities to keep up to date a record of all pregnancies, scheduled deliveries, and carry out the timely vaccination of newborns. To prevent the extinction of these two ethnic groups the vaccination program will need to continue for the next 15 to 20 years ensuring that at least one generation will be free of the virus. Results thus far show that protecting the lives of the Candoshi and Shapra is possible.

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41. Med shot of a health worker shaking hands with a villager.
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45. Med shot of a girl running with a bowl.
46. Med shot of a girl holding a baby.

UNICEF video news footage 2

Shot list:

UNICEF HOUSE, NEW YORK / 6 JUNE 2005

SOUNDBITE: Andres Franco, UNICEF Representative in Peru (English)

UNICEF Country Representative in Peru, Andres Franco, talks about the UNICEF-supported immunization campaign to protect indigenous children of Candoshi and Shapra in the Upper Amazon from the threat of Hepatitis B.