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BRAZIL: ZIKA VIRUS POSES THREAT TO PREGNANT WOMEN

VIDEO

CROWDS IN STREETS

BABIES/PRGNANT WOMEN

PAULO GADELHA ON-CAMERA

IMAGES OF MICROCEPHALY

AUDIO

(MUSIC: Anxiety, Omni Music)

NARRATION:

Brazil in South America with more than 100 million women- is experiencing a setback from the Zika virus. (9)

Experts say that the virus may have accelerated an increase in the number of birth defects in the fetuses of pregnant women. (8)

PAULO GADELHA: (In Portuguese) M

"Today we have enough evidence to assert that Zika causes these congenital malformations, including microcephaly. Some questions remain open: what is the impact of this sort of causal link on the occurrence of microcephaly cases that we're still seeing?" (31)

(MUSIC: Anxiety, Omni Music)

NARRATION:

Microcephaly is a birth defect where a baby's head appears smaller than expected, compared

to babies of the same sex and age, due to incomplete brain development. (9)

Elaine Albuquerque, a physiotherapist, isn't taking any chances. Pregnant for the first time, Elaine noticed some red spots on her body, lasting for two days. Concerned for her unborn child, Elaine immediately checked with her physician for Zika. (15)

ELAINE ALBUQUERQUE ON-CAM

ELAINE ALBUQUERQUE: (In Portuguese) F
"Can you imagine, you are living the dream of your life that you wanted to accomplish for years- to be a mother. Then in your first pregnancy, the day you discover you are pregnant, you think you got Zika." (26)

NARRATION:

Fortunately, after one month and several blood tests, Elaine's results showed no traces of the virus. (6)

LAB WORK AND FOOTAGE OF
PEOPLE IN
BRAZIL INCLUDING ABORTION
RALLY

If Elaine's test proved positive, pursuing an abortion may have been an option to avoid difficulties for the child who may have been born with a serious handicap. (9)

JOSE TEMPORAO ON-CAMERA

JOSE GOMES TEMPORAO: (In Portuguese) M
"Abortion is illegal in Brazil, but it is carried out widely. However, middle class and rich women do it in medically safe circumstances, while poor women are forced to do it in totally unsafe conditions that lead to suffering and, in many cases, death." (22)

SHOTS OF MOSQUITOS
IMAGES OF UGANDA AND
SYMPTOMS /
SHOTS OF PEOPLE

NARRATION

The World Health Organization, WHO, confirms that the Zika virus transmitted by the Aedes Aegypti mosquito damages the nervous system of both adults and unborn children. (11)

First identified in Uganda back in 1947, symptoms of the Zika virus include skin rash, joint pain and fever. (7)

The virus has now spread to some 35 countries. In Brazil alone more than 90,000 people have been infected and more than 1,800 cases of microcephaly have been registered. (12)

Elaine is taking the necessary steps to stay Zika-free until her baby is born. (5)

ELAINE ON-CAMERA

ELAINE ALBUQUERQUE: (In Portuguese) F
“I’m being monitored by my obstetricians, and aside from undertaking examinations, I have been protecting myself from mosquitos. I have been using spray every day, trying to keep mosquitos away by wearing pants, shoes, and socks.” (28)

PAULO ON-CAM /
SHOTS OF BRAZIL STREETS
AND LAB WORK

PAULO GADELHA: (In Portuguese) M
“Many vaccines are being developed with optimism. It is possible that it will happen, and would be a great feat, that clinical trials could begin later this year, so we could implement a vaccine.” (20)

UN LOGO

This report was produced by Gustavo Barreto
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