



# UNITED NATIONS

# NATIONS UNIES

## U.N. IN ACTION

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Week of 26 May 2003  
Programme No. 858  
Length: 3'09"

### **UN HELPS NIGERIAN WOMEN TO FIND EMPLOYMENT**

#### **VIDEO**

WOMEN IN FIELDS (17")

#### **AUDIO**

#### **NARRATION**

The contribution of women to Africa's economic development has, in the past, been underestimated or neglected. But in traditional or tribal societies, women are expected to be significant wage earners. At the same time, they have to care for their families.

WOMEN/CROWDS (17")

In Nigeria and elsewhere on the continent, growing industrialization and urbanization has changed the lives of millions of women. It has become increasingly difficult to find jobs in the cities and unemployment among women is widespread.

PAN FROM FOREST TO  
REFINERY (24")

In oil production cities like Port Harcourt, in southern Nigeria, work opportunities for women are very few. Apart from scarce clerical jobs, there is almost no work available to women in the oil industry. And yet, large numbers of people continue to flock to cities, says United Nations Development Programme Representative for

Nigeria, Mbaya Kankwenda.

KANKWENDA:

MBAYA KWANKWENDA ON  
CAMERA (15")

"This nomadism between rural areas and urban areas – just what are they coming to look for in big cities? They think that's where there are more opportunities, because they feel they don't have opportunities to make money, to live decently."

NARRATION

WOMEN'S SKILLS CENTRE (10")

To address this issue, the Port Harcourt Women's Education Centre provides opportunities for women to gain employment and to set up their own businesses.

TRAINING (25")

Supported by the UN Development Programme, UNDP, the centre has trained hundreds of women in sewing, fashion design and business administration. After training, they can apply for small grants and set up their own enterprises. Acquiring these skills will give women an advantage in the highly competitive job market. Oribi Wakama is the Principal of the Women's Educational Centre.

WAKAMA:

ORIBI WAKAMA ON CAMERA  
(19")

"It is difficult to compete with men. But these areas, like in sewing, women thrive very well so

that they feel if they come into this place and get the training, they will be able to get employed under more experienced and established seamstresses.”

#### NARRATION

#### WOMEN COOKING (38”)

Also available are cooking courses. Professional cooks teach the women the secrets of flavourful Nigerian cuisine. They learn how to combine all the different ingredients that make up Nigerian cooking, such as bitterleaf, chilli peppers, plantains, beans, cassava, corn, okra, oils and fish. Many women will apply for microcredit loans in order to open small restaurants at markets and roadside stalls. Empowering women is fundamentally important if Nigeria is to improve its low level of socio-economic development.

#### LOGO (20”)

This report was prepared by Chaim Litewski for the United Nations.