



TV

UNITED NATIONS NATIONS UNIES

21st Century

Producer: Sam Cole / Gill

Script Version: FINAL

Length: 4:12

MOROCCO: THE TWO-SHEEP SOLUTION

VIDEO INTRO without presenter

NARRATION

From Morocco, a story of women's new independence – and it began with sheep

FATIMA AIT LHOUSSINE: (In Arabic) F

We bought 54 sheep and each woman took two.

NARRATION

In the remote Atlas mountains, women break with tradition

FATIMA AIT LHOUSSINE:

We don't have to ask or beg our husbands anymore for money to be able to buy what we need. Now we are independent." (27")

TITLE SLATE MOROCCO : TWO SHEEP (4'12")

VIDEO

AUDIO

COUNTRYSIDE

FATIMA AIT LHOUSSINE: (In Arabic) F

("On se leve tout les jours ... du matin")

I get up at 6.30 or 7.00 every morning.

("On prepare le pain ... on fait le lessive")

I prepare the bread, the food for the children, tidy the house, wash the dishes ...(15")

NARRATION

In a remote part of the Morocco's Atlas Mountains, Fatima Ait Lhoussine, as she has always done, attends to her morning chores. (8")

WOMEN AT BREAKFAST

Not long ago, this, and helping the men in the fields would have been ALL she and the other women of the village could do. (6")

SHEEP

But a change has taken place and it all started with sheep. (3")

FATIMA AIT LHOUSSINE: (In Arabic) F

On a achete ... eu 2 betes)

FATIMA ON CAMERA

We bought 54 sheep and each woman took two. (4")

NARRATION

MEN FARMING

Rearing sheep, like most other income-generating activities in this area, is traditionally a job for the men. (6")

But thanks to a microfinance system set up by

SHEEP FOOTAGE

the Moroccan government and the UN's International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD), women were suddenly able to borrow money to buy their own animals - and to start generating their own income. (16")

BABY LAMB

Since the venture started in 2008, both flocks and funds have surged. (5")

FATIMA AIT LHOUSSINE: (In Arabic) F

("Et dieu merci, on a vendu Les betes en surplus")

We have been able to sell 500 of them, without counting the ones we've kept for ourselves. (5")

WOMEN MAKING RUGS

NARRATION

As well as the sale of their animals at the market, there have been other spin-offs. The traditional Berber skill of carpet-making has been revived – using wool from the women's own sheep. The carpets are sold as far away as Marrakesh. (16")

BEEHIVES

With the funds from the sheep, they were able to expand into other new ventures - they bought beehives and olive trees. (6")

FATIMA ON CAMERA

FATIMA AIT LHOUSSINE: (In Arabic) F

"Il y a un projet avec Savon artisanal."

We're now starting to produce olive oil from which we will make home-made soap (5")

NARRATION

Another of the 26 cooperative members, Najia Al

TENDING TO BEES

Kharouate, who received training in bee-keeping, says that working together is the key to their success. (8)

NAJIA AL KHAROUATE: (In Arabic) F

"We pool our efforts together and trust we can make it a successful enterprise for ourselves and our families. Without our efforts, we would go back to the moment when we had nothing." (16)

NARRATION

And going back, says Fatima, is simply not an option (3")

FATIMA ON CAMERA

FATIMA AIT LHOUSSINE: (In Arabic) F

*"We women can now go to the souk (**market**) and buy our children presents and what they need for school. If they are sick, we can afford to buy them medicines. And, thanks to God, we don't have to ask or beg our husbands anymore for money to be able to buy what we need. Now we are independent." (15")*

NARRATION

All these activities have contributed to a 60 percent increase in household income – a point not over-looked by the husbands! (7")

HUSSEIN ON CAMERA

HUSSEIN AIT MANSOUR: (In Arabic) M

"Now it's not like the old times. Back then, when the man was the sole earner of income, we had to borrow money to buy clothes for our children.(6")

HUSSEIN WITH HORSEDRAWN
PLOUGH

NARRATION

Fatima's husband, Hussein Ait Mansour, says he's not the only man who thinks that traditional roles have now been replaced by a much better arrangement. (8")

HUSSEIN ON CAMERA

HUSSEIN AIT MANSOUR: (In Arabic) M

Now everyone benefits from the cooperative's revenue. They have their sheep. They can get everything they need. They don't lack anything anymore." (3")

FATIMA ON CAMERA

FATIMA AIT LHOUSINE: (In Arabic) F

"Le femme vend et garde L'argent a l'homme")

The woman earns then saves the money. We don't need to ask the man for money anymore.

Nous sommes contentes ... de travailler".)

We're happy now. We just want to keep working. (9")

SLOW MOTION SHOTS OF WOMEN
IN FIELDS

NARRATION

And they're ready for what might be the most significant step yet. In a few weeks' time they will start literacy classes, not just to help them further their business goals but to pave the way, they say, for all women in the region who want to take charge of their own destinies. (18)