



TV UNITED NATIONS NATIONS UNIES

U.N. IN ACTION

Week of 18 January 2005

Programme No. 940

Length: 3'32"

UNRWA HELPS PALESTINIAN WOMEN ENTREPRENEURS

VIDEO

CAMP SCENES /FATIMA AND
FAMILY (11")

CAMP STREET SCENES (26")

FATIMA WITH FAMILY EATING
(15")

AUDIO

NARRATION

More than twenty seven thousand Palestinians live here...crowded together in the Gaza refugee camp in Jordan. (8")

Life here is not easy. Most refugees are unemployed or work sporadically in low-paying menial jobs. With most of whatever jobs that do exist going to men, women are left with few options to earn a living. Among them, forty-two year-old Fatima Abdallah Abu Knar, her sick husband, Jabber and their ten children. (22")

To try and support her family, Fatima worked manual labour in nurseries and olive groves, but the work was difficult and inconsistent. She tried peddling nik-naks out of a suitcase but the money was always inadequate. (13")

FATIMA: (in Arabic)

FATIMA ON-CAMERA (8")

"I needed school expenses, clothes for my daughters and groceries for the house." (6")

NARRATION

FATIMA IN KITCHEN (10")

Fatima and her family did receive food rations and other basic services provided by the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees, or UNRWA. (9")

(10")

Today more than four million Palestinian refugees are registered with UNRWA. More than one million of them are women. (8")

PEOPLE AND SHOPS IN CAMP
(20")

In an effort to help Fatima, and thousands of others break out of the cycle of poverty, UNRWA established a small loan or micro-credit programme. It's an opportunity for people who could otherwise never meet the requirements for a loan...to get one and start their own business. (17")

WOMEN SHOPPING (10")

And while the program is available to men as well, its primary mission is to help women become financially independent. (8")

MR. SHAWA INTRO (4")

Fouad Shawa is Director of the Programme. (3")

SHAWA: (in Arabic)

FOUAD SHAWA ON-CAMERA
(15")

"The small loans given to women helped in the establishment of successful projects which

increased the family's income and improved the economic and social conditions of the family.”

(12”)

NARRATION

FATIMA OPENING STORE (6”)

With a three thousand dollar loan, Fatima opened a small clothing store in the refugee camp. (5”)

FATIMA WITH CUSTOMERS IN STORE/ IN BANK (15”)

Within a few months, she was turning a profit. Now, she makes enough money to support her family, pay off the loan's monthly one-hundred-dollar instalment and, for the first time in her life, save for the future. (14”)

TRAINING (9”)

Another part of the programme is skills training for young refugees. Computer and sewing classes are popular among the women. (8”)

FATIMA: (in Arabic)

FATIMA ON-CAMERA (7”)

“My message to them is that poverty is not something shameful and women must be productive.” (5”)

NARRATION

MEN APPLYING FOR LOANS (10”)

Encouraged by success stories like Fatima's, others are following in her footsteps – receiving job training and micro-credit loans from UNRWA. (8”)

NARRATION

YOUNG REFUGEES (15”)

Until a solution to the Palestinian question is found, many of them will continue to rely on UNRWA one way or the other. (12”)

U.N. LOGO (10")

This report was prepared by Kamil Taha for the
United Nations.