



# UNITED NATIONS NATIONS UNIES

## 21<sup>st</sup> Century

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Duration : 2' 16"

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### EGYPT : THE GIRL WHO DREAMED OF SCHOOL

#### VIDEO

YUSRIYA WALKING IN VILLAGE

YUSRIYA ON CAMERA

GENERAL SHOTS, VILLAGE  
LIFE

YUSRIYA'S PARENTS AND  
YOUNGER SIBLING

#### AUDIO

##### NARRATION:

13-year-old Yusriya Al Fikrey was afraid she would never get a chance to go to school.

##### YUSRIYA: (In Arabic)

"I was sad because I couldn't read advertisements and signs in the street, or newspapers. Nothing – not even my own name".

##### NARRATION:

Yusriya's predicament isn't unusual in this part of rural, north-eastern Egypt.

In this society, women can't go anywhere without a male escort – and Yusriya's parents weren't willing to send their daughters an hour on foot to the nearest school.

YUSRIYA WALKING

But Yusriya's odds were about to change – and with that came a chance to transform her life. UNICEF and the Egyptian government began building new schools in remote villages.

PLAYING GAME OUTSIDE  
SCHOOL

Malak Zaalouk is an educational advisor with UNICEF.

MALAK ZAALOUK ON CAMERA

MALAK ZAALOUK: (In English)

"It was really to go to those places that were mostly forgotten where there were lots of children who were out of school, particularly girls, and find strategies that could actually bring them into school".

SCHOOL EXTERIOR,  
CLASSROOM ACTIVITIES

NARRATION:

Change came to Yusriya's village with the opening of a new one-room school. It provided a quality education. Here, children learned by doing, playing and creating.

YUSRIYA'S FATHER

Yusriya's father could now see a new future for his daughter

YUSRIYA'S FATHER ON  
CAMERA

FATHER: (In Arabic)

I would like her life to be better, living in a cleaner place, wearing cleaner clothes - not like me as a poor farmer".

CLASSROOM

NARRATION:

Yusriya quickly began to thrive.

YUSRIYA IN SCHOOL,  
TEACHER ON CAMERA

NAGUA IBRAHIM SAID: (In Arabic)

“She comes to me saying ‘Oh Ms. Nagua I want to do research, please help me’. I give her an idea and the material she needs and her schoolmates join her”.

YUSRIYA AT HOME WITH  
OLDER SISTERS

NARRATION:

Back at home, Yusriya tries to make up for the fact that her sisters missed out and are now too old to attend the school. She’s become their teacher.

YUSRIYA IN SCHOOL

NARRATION:

For Yusriya, opportunity has already arrived – now she can dream.

YUSRIYA (In Arabic)

“Education is great”.

“After 10 years I will have finished school. I will have finished college and, God willing, I will be a doctor. God willing”.