



TV

UNITED NATIONS NATIONS UNIES

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UN SUPPORTS WOMEN ENTREPRENEURS IN YEMEN

VIDEO

WOMEN AND FAMILY

FATTUM WALKING TO BAKERY

FATTUM ON-CAMERA

MARKET SCENES

AUDIO

NARRATION

Since the death of her husband some 20 years ago, life hasn't been easy for 60-year old Fattum Muhammad Qasim and her family. (8)

Fattum, a mother and grandmother of eight, lives in the second largest city in Yemen, Ta'az, in the south western corner of the Arabian Peninsula. For many years, she struggled to make both ends meet. (13)

QASIM: (In Arabic)

"My late husband never made enough money. My daughters and I had to work to help him. Then I opened a bakery. But it didn't do well. It went bankrupt." (11)

NARRATION

Yemen is one of the poorest and least developed countries in the world. More than 40% of its 20 million people live under the poverty line. Most of them are women and children. (11)

PEOPLE/SHOPS/ WOMEN	<p><u>NARRATION</u></p> <p>In 2001, the Government introduced a five-year National Programme for Poverty Alleviation. One of its main objectives is to provide women with micro credit loans to help them start income generating activities. Aneesa Hasan heads Al-awa'el Micro credit Enterprise. (19)</p>
ANEESA HASAN ON-CAMERA	<p><u>HASAN:</u> (In Arabic)</p> <p>“We serve women by giving them loans to support and finance small projects to improve the economic standard of the Yemeni family especially when the woman is sometimes considered to be the only bread winner of her family.” (15)</p>
WOMEN APPLYING FOR LOANS	<p><u>NARRATION</u></p> <p>Microfinance is relatively new in Yemen. The first project was introduced in 1988 by the United Nations Capital Development Fund in cooperation with the government and the Netherlands. By the year 2002, the programme benefited more than seven thousand borrowers. One of them is Fattum. (19)</p>
FATTUM IN BAKERY	<p>Capitalizing on her experience in the baking business and her excellent record of repayment, Fattum qualified for several small loans totalling less than fifteen hundred dollars over a 3-year period. She reopened her bakery, bought supplies and a fuel-fired burner, and hired a baker. (19)</p>

PEOPLE BUYING BREAD

NARRATION

Bread is a main food staple in Yemen. Fattum's bakery can scarcely keep up with demand.

In addition to her neighbours, she now sells to stores. People from as far as Aden come to buy her bread. (13)

Flavia Pansiri is the United Nations Coordinator in Yemen. (4)

PANSIRI ON-CAMERA

PANSIRI:

"When one of our clients is able to access normal commercial lending, we think we have succeeded in pulling them out of poverty." (9.5)

PEOPLE

NARRATION

Microfinance in Yemen is not free from problems like fraud and bureaucracy. But it remains an indispensable first step in helping the poor break out of the cycle of poverty. (12)

LOGO

This report was prepared by United Nations Television. (3)