



TV UNITED NATIONS NATIONS UNIES

U.N. IN ACTION

Week of 29 November 2004

Programme No. 933

Length : 2'41"

SMALL LOANS IN EGYPT

VIDEO

STREET SCENES IN EGYPT

AUDIO

NARRATION

Women in Egypt are searching for new ways to improve their standard of living. Many of them depended on their husbands who were once the sole breadwinners. Seven years ago, Umtouba lost her husband. (12")

UMTOUBA ON CAMERA

MAKING ROPE

As a young girl, Umtouba helped her family to produce rope made from palm leaves. This was a family tradition. She continued the craft of rope making after she got married. Now, with the death of her husband, she finds herself working alone to raise her three daughters and three sons. This is not an easy task because her husband did everything for her. (21")

UMTOUBA: (In Arabic)

UMTOUBA ON CAMERA

"I would never go outside to buy these leaves. He would go to the market and bring everything here. He would bring things in the car. I would sit here and work. He would bring things to me as I sat here." (11")

FEEDING CHICKENS

NARRATION

Women who are the head of households find themselves in vulnerable situations. Umtouba's neighbour, Sahar, says that there is need for caution when women negotiate with customers. (10")

SAHAR ON CAMERA

SAHAR: (In Arabic)

"She used to sell to the merchants. He might or might not pay her. He could cheat her." (4")

ROPE MAKING

NARRATION

Sahar works for Microstart, a scheme developed by the United Nations Development Programme, UNDP. Microstart's main focus is to break the cycle of poverty. It targets female-headed households. Many women have received loans ranging from 80 dollars to 300 dollars. Sahar's job is to build a trusting relationship with the women before their loans are approved. (23")

SAHAR ON CAMERA (19")

SAHAR: (In Arabic)

"If she needs anything, she asks me. I answer her questions. If she needs anything I help her. I befriend her a month before I give her the loan. I get to know her. I get to know where she's from...everything about her home." (14")

UMTOUBA AT HOME WITH CHILDREN

NARRATION

Umtouba finally received a loan of 80 dollars with Sahar's help. She fixed up her house and sent one child to school with the money. (8")

UMTOUBA ON CAMERA

The Microstart project has helped over 6,000 people find jobs in Fayoum by approving five thousand loans. The project is tackling two of the millennium development goals established at the United Nations summit in 2000 – empowering women and reducing poverty. (17")

UN LOGO (10")

This report was prepared by Beshir Shousa and Mary Ferreira for the United Nations.