



FINDING HAPPINESS IN HELPING PEOPLE

“ Despite the delay in my academic roadmap, I successfully received my Bachelors of Law five years ago and now I am seeking to play a vital role in my community. ”



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Laila in front of her greenhouse.

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Laila with her goats.

“Despite the delay in my academic roadmap, since I obtained my Bachelors of Law degree about five years ago, I am seeking to play a vital role in my community, to give me a feeling of self-satisfaction in better serving my community members, and at the same time, to earn some income to improve my standard of living, especially after the arrival of my first child, who is now over two years old.”

“But unfortunately, the COVID-19 pandemic did not give me this opportunity easily, as it imposed a siege on us and dramatically changed our lives. We had no choice but to wait and see how things unfolded.”

This is Laila Muhammad Abdullah. She is 33 years old and lives with her small family in Sham al-Bahriya, a village in Minya Governorate, Egypt. In 2018 she earned a Bachelor of Laws degree and became a facilitator for a farmer field school in the project “Improved livelihoods, nutrition and empowerment of rural women and their families in Minya Governorate.”

“I worked for a short time as a researcher with the Decent Life Initiative, which is a presidential initiative implemented by the Ministry of Social Solidarity, with a symbolic amount as a salary to help me with the continuously escalating costs of living; and then I worked as a social facilitator with the Free Sons of Egypt Association.”

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“When I heard about the project on improving the livelihoods and nutrition of rural women and their families affected by the COVID-19 pandemic in Minya Governorate, implemented FAO and the Ministry of Social Solidarity, I did not hesitate for a second to apply for the position as a facilitator in the project.”

Laila and other women in need of work to increase their income and earn a living to sustain their families in the harsh conditions of Minya Governorate, are always seeking opportunities that can help them achieve some level of stability in their lives, especially when such opportunities are offered by trusted organizations.

The project trained a number of women facilitators through a series of specialized training courses. Despite their lack of experience, the women succeeded in developing their skills and acquiring the necessary knowledge to work with the rural women project beneficiaries. Laila and her colleagues were trained in communication and negotiation skills and in the documentation of home visits. They benefited tremendously by having acquired not only communication skills, but greater self-confidence and persuasion skills in their work with project beneficiaries.

Laila participated in the selection of project beneficiaries and the formation of farmer field schools. She conducted home visits and the required follow-up visits, communicating with people, taking into consideration their level of education.

“Working with FAO has added great value to my resume, and I am sure that it will open many doors for me in the future because I worked with a trusted and renowned entity.”

“Working with the project informed me more about the meaning of development and the joy of helping others, which made me love this field. And within my future plans, I am seeking to always help people in need, even voluntarily, because I experience an unprecedented feeling of satisfaction when I contribute to improving people’s lives and helping them overcome hardships.”

“The beneficiaries are very happy with the micro projects they received. They are in need of more such projects, and I hope I can help them all.”



Another project beneficiary with her chicks.