

Sewing and Smiling in Egypt

Meet Safaa Isaac! Safaa is one of our Egyptian widows who through a microbusiness grant funded by Finding Freedom through Friendship (FFF) is now able to supplement her meagre monthly income.

Safaa is the mother of four children- two sons and two daughters. Her ten-year-old daughter, Mahreel, the baby of the family, is enrolled in FFF's education program. By paying for schooling and tutoring encourages Mahreel to get an education (mandatory for the mother to remain in the program) which will open doors to employment in the future. Studies have validated that educating girls has a direct impact to their socio-economic situation – as much as twenty-five percent increase in income and living standard.



The microgrant of \$500 was used to purchase a sewing machine, notions (thread, pins, etc.) and material. With the tools and supplies, Safaa combined her creativity and seamstress skills to produce bedlinens to sell to the surrounding small businesses.

Thus, began a successful journey of self-reliance, independence and confidence. Today, with a portion of the profits, Safaa purchases more supplies. Then more linens are made. And slowly the microbusiness is growing. At some point, Safaa may be able to hire her oldest daughter or sister to help with the increase of demand. Who knows, maybe one day, Safaa can even open her own shop.

Moreover, in addition to the business, some of the profits from the sales of the linens, supplements the current household income. The additional revenue can be used for the home or towards the health and education of the family.

Safaa's smile demonstrates empowerment, self-reliance, entrepreneurship and pride in using her skills to improve her family's security.

This microbusiness is the excellent stepping stone for this family to start a new journey towards a more sustainable future.

This success story demonstrates the reversal of the yoke of poverty for the current and future generations through FFF's provision of education and microfinance to improve the individual and the community.

Inspire. Empower. Sustain.

A sustainable future is one in which a healthy environment, economic prosperity and social justice are pursued imultaneously to ensure the well-being and quality of life of present and future generations. Education is crucial to attaining that future."

~ Learning for a Sustainable Future -
Teacher Centre

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