

A Community Corn Grinder

Mariam Mikhail, a 39-year-old widow, lives in Sharona with her two young children, Maged and Marina. Mariam's husband, a day laborer, died in 2019 leaving the family no money, no appliances and meager furniture. The little nutrition they obtained came from neighbors who took pity on the family. The family was undernourished and little Maged suffered with kidney stones. Furthermore, Mariam could not afford the school tuition, so the children roamed the streets.

The stress took its toll psychologically and Mariam lost all confidence. Receiving pittance, she began helping a farmer grind corn for livestock and poultry using a manual grinder. Here she learned the types of grains and supplements used in the feed.

Finding Freedom through Friendship (FFF) and the Council of Services and Development (CSD) met Mariam in dire need. Mariam proposed an electric corn grinder as a possible sustainable business. An electric mill can grind pellet feed such as corn, Sorghum, grain, legumes, corn cob, dry wheat straw, rice husk, wheat brans and even small tree branches. After adding supplements to enrich the feed, the product is then weighed into sacks for sale.

In November of that year, an electric feed mill for 8,000 EGP (\$450) was installed on the roof next to the corn spread to dry. Today, farmers bring corn and grains to Mariam to grind. Mariam purchases supplements from a wholesaler.

FFF & CSD believe in the holistic approach to instill independence and confidence at the emotional and physical state so the individual can live to their utmost potential. With the regular visits by Marian Gamal, the team facilitator helped Mariam to overcome her emotional battles. Although most women in rural villages are illiterate, Marian also trained Mariam to save by designating a box for savings and separating the money from household needs.

Mariam earns enough revenue to pay for food and medical care. The children are in good health and attend school. The family has regained their dignity and confidence. The investment in Mariam has reversed the yoke of poverty and established a sustainable and economically future for the family and society.



Economically empowered women can effectively influence positive social changes in their lives, their family, and their community

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