

PRESS RELEASE

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Launching a Series of Activities to Empower Women Socially and Economically in Rural Damascus and Qunayterah

DAMASCUS, 1 October 2009 - Within the project titled "Women's Empowerment and Poverty Alleviation" which is being implemented on a pilot scale in the Governorates of Dara'a, Latakia, Al Raqqa, Deir Al-Zour, Al Hasakah and Aleppo, and in cooperation between the Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs and the United Nations Development Programme, a series of activities will be launched on the third of October 2009 in Qunayterah (Nabe' Al-Sakher) at 12.00am at the village's elementary school- Second coterie, and in Rural Damascus (Biet Jien) at 14.00pm at the village's elementary school - First coterie. Aimed at empowering women socially and economically, the project will provide 2 packages of training courses and services for women between the ages of 18 to 55 year old.

The social services package includes 3 training courses: the first course concentrates on gender relations and empowering women on a social level; the second focuses on illiteracy eradication in collaboration with the Ministry of Culture; and the third is a First aid and Childhood health course in collaboration with the Ministry of Health.

The second package, the economic services package, offers 3 training courses in collaboration with the General Cooperation for Employment and Enterprise Development that will focus on training women on how to set up and manage their own businesses, achieve sustainability and generate incomes that will help improve the standard of living of their families and local community.

After successfully completing these courses, these women will be able to apply for loans that will allow them to start up income generating agricultural and non agricultural projects.

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