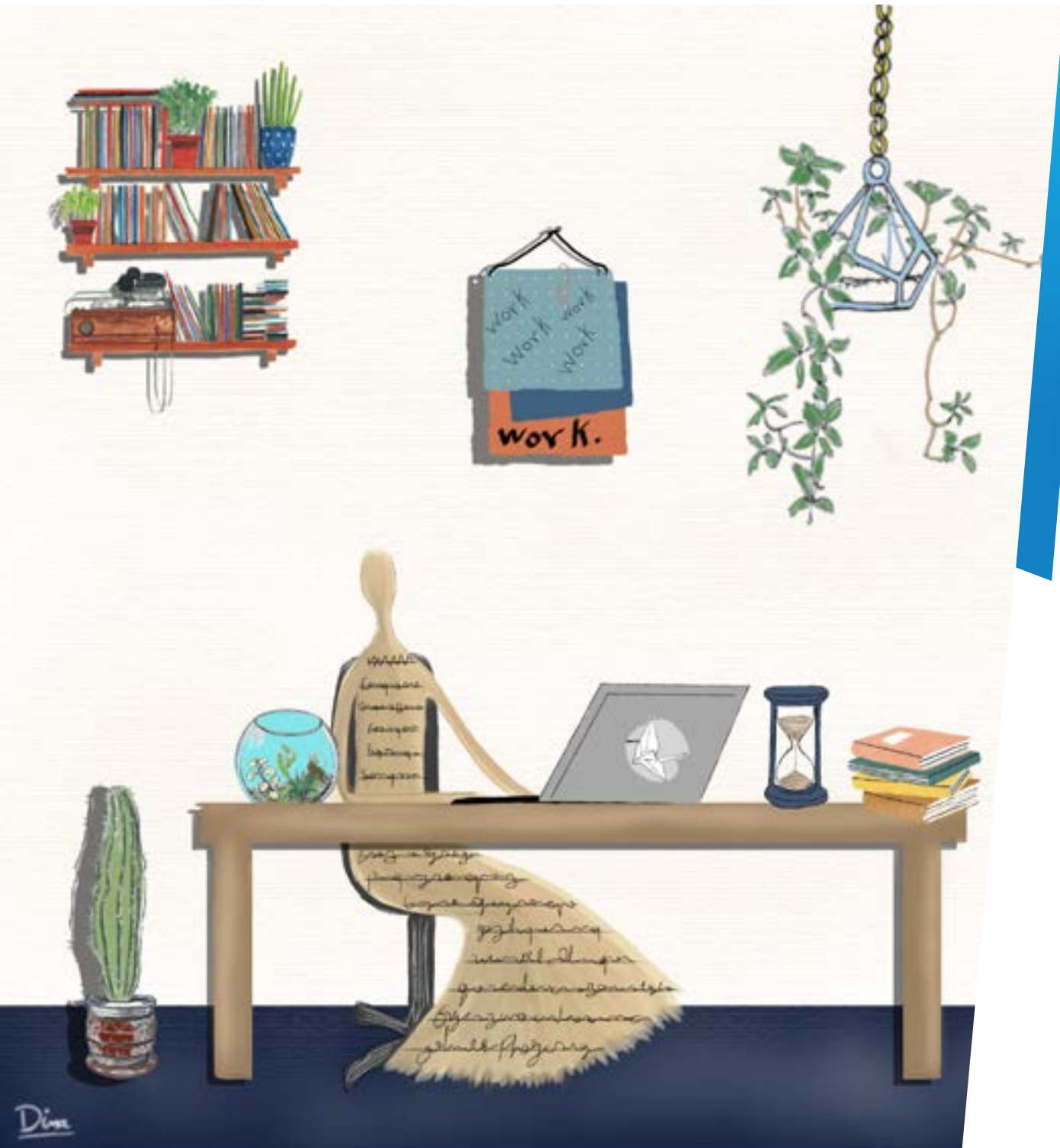


أنبارنا

ثقافية - إخبارية - متنوعة

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Renewable Giving... Unfinished Journey

Maha Muhammad, a 38 year old woman from Azaz, was born with a physical disability due to osteoporosis. She knew how to overcome the too many obstacles that stood against her and she did her best to play her role to the fullest, which made her a role model of persistence and determination.

Maha couldn't complete her study because she faced difficulties throughout the learning process, in addition to the difficulty of going to school and back from it. However, online education opened doors for her to achieve her goal and complete a degree in Islamic Sharia. Today, she still attends many relevant trainings, the thing that empowered her more and helped her gain more experience.

Maha said: «I wanted to work and I chose a profession that suits my health condition. By the beginning of 2020, my sister encouraged me to get involved in the electronic labor market, and I started practicing business with a small amount of money, in addition to working in clothes marketing and in selling medical and cosmetic products».

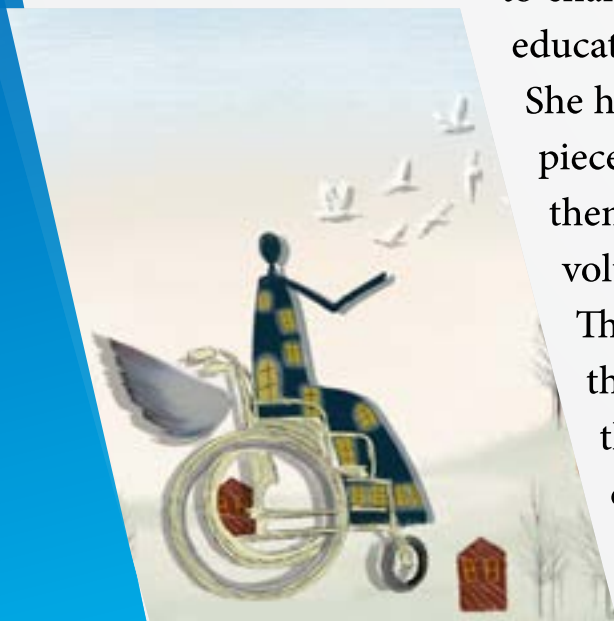
She added: «I believe that having a job contributed a lot to shaping my personality in many aspects. It helped me become self-dependent by the money I make. I can say that the internet also played a great role in my life, because without it, I wouldn't be able to start my own project».

«There are positive and humanitarian aspects of the work that I do. I helped some women (those who couldn't work due to family or health reasons), by contributing to their employment in the same company where I work. I explained everything to them and this made them get involved in the labor market easily».

Maha said that she still has a lot of aspirations related to her marketing job. She hopes to change from online to physical work and to start a special educational institute for children and women.

She happily told us: «In my free time, I weave wool clothing pieces for my family, I express my love to things by drawing them, I tutor kids in my house, and sometimes I work as a voluntary trainer».

There are too many people with a physical disability. Yet, they are determined to challenge their reality and change the society's negative look towards them by being successfully involved in many aspects of life.



Aaraa.Com

Under the current deteriorated economic conditions, what might be the optimal fields for women to start their own projects/business?

Every month we raise a question on the social networking platforms of Women Support Unit (WSU) to reach out to your views on the impact of the current deteriorated economic conditions and unstable exchange rate. Women look forward to starting their own projects/business so that they can help supporting their families and win their bread.

The followings are some of the views shared by both male and female followers of our page:

«I believe there should be experienced marketers to help sell the products made by women».

Amani



«What seems to be a successful project under the current conditions is a project based mainly on personal effort but not on raw materials and this is because the unstable prices that resulted from the unstable exchange rate».

Adawiya



«I believe there's no specific field for a successful project/business. If I like what I do, I would deliver creative results. This is what I would call a successful project/business».

«I believe that successful projects are the ones which meet the society's needs». "There's no specific field. Only when you believe that you are in the right place can you succeed in whatever project/business you do".

Sobhiye



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The importance of women's economic projects

Since the beginning of the revolution to the present day, the Syrian people, in general, have been experiencing a critical period at the economic level. Year by year, the Syrian economy deteriorated dramatically.

By shedding the light on northern Syria and the women living there, we can see that there are many problems and difficulties which aroused due to the bad economic conditions.

Many factors contributed to worsening the economic life in Syria, namely: dis-

placement of the Syrian people, and many women lost their husbands, fathers, or breadwinners, the thing that made them work to meet their family's basic needs. In addition, some women have been exploited by their employers through making them work long hours and do difficult things without giving them their full rights of the wage they deserve.

Today, as the economic situation has worsened and many people have become unable to meet the needs of their families, we can see that the majority of the Syrian communities have finally accepted the idea of allowing their



girls and women to work so that they can support the men to ensure providing all the families' requirements, because only one person can no longer afford all burdens of basic life needs.

Views and positions on women's labor and the reasons that pushed them to work have varied. However, there's been a remarkable change in women's engagement in the labor market and economic life. Today, we can see many women working in the fields, shops, hospitals, schools, CSOs, official institutions, and most recently in the security and police services.

Among the most distinctive jobs come the fully female economic enterprises, where many women have found that private work is more profitable and advantageous. Therefore, a lot of women in northern Syria started their own businesses in a variety of majors, like hairdressing and beauty salons, sewing workshops, kitchen and dessert making, in addition to trade, where many women could work online from home in electronic marketing for cosmetic products, clothes, and household stuff. All of these projects have helped women to improve their economic conditions.

Within the same framework, many CSOs have started supporting the idea of small projects, which proved having a positive impact on enhancing the families' economic conditions. Such projects allow women to learn about certain professions as well as the administration of the projects they would like to start. This encourages women to learn, increases their self-confidence, proves that every woman is capable of giving within the major they prefer, enables women to start their own projects and be self-empowered away from exploitation of employers, in addition to stressing the importance of women's role and contribution to change the society's negative look of women's labor.

Written by: Suad Hanjik

In the section of the opinion article, we publish articles expressing the author's point of view, not necessarily the opinion of the Women Support Unit

The positive impact of the project «Participation» lies in the importance of the trainings it offers



A few months ago, Women Support Unit's sub-committee in al-Bab launched a project under the title: «Participation», under which lie many sub goals as well as one main goal that concentrates on the promotion of peacebuilding in Al-Bab, through increasing women's contribution in the positions of making decision and ensuring the media advocacy for this role. Among other sub goals come building capacities of 30 women and training them on technical skills through a series of trainings including: strategic planning, project management, and accounting, all within a duration of three months.

30 women of the IDPs and locals from Al-Bab were chosen based on certain criteria, namely: all trainees must be over 18, have effective roles in the society, and advocates of women's issues.

The training series was initiated by a training on social dialog then on strategic planning, which was provided by trainer Mr. Muhammad Abdul Qassoum for two groups of trainees (each including 15 women). The training lasted 8 days (4 days for each of the two groups), and it included theoretical information and practical activities. At the end of the training, the trainees realized the importance of training and its obstacles. The trainer explained in details steps of planning, definition of a message, characteristics of a good message, the mechanism of writing a message, vision, and good vision.

The theoretical part of the training was followed by a practical activity during which the trainees worked on writing integrated visions and messages. The training was concluded by dividing the trainees into working groups, where each group had to identify their goals, values, messages and visions to reflect the information they acquired during the theoretical part.

Nur al-Huda, one of the trainees, told us about her personal experience of the strategic planning training saying: «I joined the strategic planning training held within the project called

(Participation), and through this training I learned about the real meaning of strategy and strategic planning. The trainer presented examples of strategic planning and its importance. He also helped us learn about the mechanism of setting a strategic plan and the obstacles that may stand against planning, in addition to correcting some of the misconceptions like value, message, goal, and the difference between fields of work and performance indicators. I had a previous idea about all these concepts, but after joining the training my scope of knowledge and experience became more broadened and more academic.»

Trainer Mr. Bashar Abdul Kader held another training on project management, which targeted two groups of trainees, to train them on many axes that were raised in different ways like: defining management, clarifying the difference between a project and activities, talking about the importance of planning for projects, defining lifecycle of a project, explaining the factors that contribute to managing projects, and distinguishing between effectiveness and efficiency. It's worth mentioning that the training was rich in practical activities that facilitated conveying the ideas to the trainees.

Ghina Younes shared with us her experience about the importance of attending the conference saying: «The project management training is very important and beneficial. We learned about the factors that contribute to the success or failure of any project and the methodology of triangulation (considering issues from three aspects), which is used to validate data. In addition, we learned about stakeholders, those who affect or are affected by the project positively and negatively. I believe that the most important benefit for me was learning about how to manage all risks and threats which face the project I'm doing.»

It's worth mentioning that the trainees will complete a training in accounting, which will mark the end of the training series.



News of the committees during December:

Women Support Unit

Within its sub-committees, WСУ held an awareness raising session on women's rights in the presence of 128 participants. WСУ held elections for its sub-committees in Al-Bab and Afrin.

Al-Bab

Women Sub-committee in Al-Bab held many dialog sessions and trainings, the most important of which were:

- Training on strategic planning.

- Training on project management.

- Training on accounting principles.

- Training on community women journalism.

40
trainee

Qabbasin

Women Sub-committee in Qabbasin held many dialog sessions, the most important of which were:

- Legal awareness.

- Violence against women.

- Women's role in political life.

- Needs assessment in the region especially those related to women.

- My parents' skills.

- The event of 16 days for the elimination of violence against women.

186
beneficiary



A local, non-profit civil society organization for women's affairs, launched in 2018 through a conference attended by more than 150 women in rural northern and eastern Aleppo from Afrin to reaching to Jarablus.

The Unit targets women who have difficulty playing their role optimally in society. It also seeks to empower women politically, economically, culturally and socially in the northern and eastern countryside of Aleppo.



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Syria, Aleppo - Azaz

The geographical zone of the WSU's work: northern and eastern countryside of Aleppo