



NEF

What's New

90+ YEARS

NEF-Morocco Celebrates National Day of Children's Rights - posted *Wednesday, June 20, 2007*



In keeping with NEF's (Near East Foundation) very successful educational reform underway in Berber villages in the High Atlas Mountains of Morocco, almost a thousand children, eight school principals, 36 teachers, two school inspectors, 97 PTA members, and 42 village women took part in NEF's festivities in conjunction with Morocco's May 25th National Day of Children's Rights.

Now Morocco's National Day of Children's Rights joins the growing list of NEF innovations bringing a fresh incentive to primary school education.

Encouraging education in rural areas of the country, once opening remarks were concluded, participants plunged into a range of activities, including art, theater, singing. It looked like a lot of fun, but was designed with a very serious purpose--to make schools a community focal point.



The day's theater, art, and singing activities were designed with a very serious purpose--to make schools a community focal point.

According to NEF's Project Manager Abdelkhalk Aandam, "Our objectives were to encourage the use of school facilities for extra-curricular activities, open up schools as a venue for on-going community events, and impress upon parents and kids the meaning of a national day dedicated to children."

Now Morocco's National Day of Children's Rights joins the growing list of NEF innovations bringing a fresh incentive to primary school education, particularly geared to attracting the participation of girls and women. NEF's multi-faceted, gender-sensitive approaches range widely from the physical renovation of schools and organization of PTAs for greater community involvement, on through adult literacy classes, energy-efficient cookstoves, and income generating activities.



There are now about 2,000 students--girls are the majority--in schools participating in NEF's program. Also, there is a 30 percent increase in primary school graduations; a 40 percent increase in secondary school completions; and a 50 percent increase in adult participation in PTAs.

A very important development, NEF has been told by the regional office of the Moroccan Ministry of Education that our pioneering innovations to teaching, administration, and educational supervision will be applied throughout the south of the country, in eight provinces, where over five million people live.

Greater community involvement in schools comes from NEF's multifaceted strategy, including adult literacy classes, energy-efficient cookstoves very helpful to women, and income generating projects.