



Basic Economic Rights: Women and the Bread Crisis in Egypt

IMOW Curated Tours

This tour focuses on the role of women during the Egyptian food crisis of 2007, when the price of wheat and other grains skyrocketed on the world market. It features a slideshow depicting the impact of bread shortages on women and girls. The presentation package includes a downloadable multimedia slideshow, PowerPoint slides and a script.

The content in this presentation is part of the International Museum of Women's virtual *Economica* exhibition, which addresses the relationship between women and the global economy. To offer the audience more context about the museum and this project, we suggest presenting the *International Museum of Women: Exhibiting Change* tour or playing the related video prior to your presentation(s).

We encourage you to immerse yourself in the content, personalize it, and give the presentation your own flair. Suggestions for presenters, approximate timing, and details about the tour follow.

[Note: The slideshows and related content for *Economica* are also available in Spanish on the IMOW website at www.imow.org/economica]

TOTAL LENGTH: 6 minutes, with Extension Ideas

ADDITIONAL MATERIALS TO DOWNLOAD from www.imow.org/education/tours

- "Bread" slideshow
- Presentation PowerPoint

EQUIPMENT NEEDED

- Computer with Quicktime Player and Microsoft Office PowerPoint
- Projector
- Screen
- Audio/speakers
- Microphone

SPEAKER TALKING POINTS

Launch the PowerPoint presentation



Slide 1

Purpose: Brief introduction to the Museum

Key Talking Points:

- The International Museum of women is an innovative virtual museum, offering online and physical experiences in multiple languages and locations. The museum acts a creative catalyst for social change, using art and multi-media to engage new worldwide audiences in activism for women's human rights.
- Its online exhibition ***Economica*** features multimedia slideshows that illustrate the relationship between women and the global economy. This mini exhibition tour focuses on the Egyptian food crisis of 2007.

Slides 2-3

Purpose: Provide background information on the global situation for women in regards to food and hunger

Key Talking Points:

- Though rural women in developing economies produce half of the world's food and 60% to 80% of the food in their own countries;
- 7 out of 10 of the world's hungry are women and girls
- Women – the world's caregivers – are usually the ones who step in when basic provisions fall short
 - In most families around the world, women are responsible for growing, purchasing and preparing meals
 - They are also often held responsible for maintaining the household budget and making ends meet, which means that they are often the first to forgo a meal when times are tough

Slide 4

Purpose: Provide background information for the slideshow "Bread"

Key Talking Points:



- In 2007, prices of wheat and other grains went up, causing a global food crisis
- Egyptians rely on bread for daily sustenance, and the food crisis caused bakeries to raise the price of bread, making it unaffordable for many people
- The Egyptian government has a bread subsidy, which means that bread is offered at a reduced cost
- However, during the food crisis, the government supply of bread could not keep up with the demand, and many women and girls were forced to take time away from work and school to stand in bread lines for hours each day

Slides 5-7

Purpose: Get audience to think about issues presented in the slideshow

Key Talking Points:

- As you watch the slideshow, think about the following questions:
 - Even though the Egyptian government provides a bread subsidy, what was the reality that women faced during the food crisis?
 - What role do women play when the government falls short?

Minimize PowerPoint, open Quicktime video

Play *Basic Rights* slideshow (4 minutes)

Minimize Quicktime Player, switch back to PowerPoint presentation

Slide 8

Purpose: Offer some proposed solutions on a societal level

Key Talking Points:

- The affect the Egyptian food crisis has had on Egyptian women shows underscores how important it is to:
 - Provide basic necessities for citizens
 - Without social services and basic provisions, it is difficult for citizens, and thus,



countries, to thrive

- Lift economic burdens from the shoulders of women
 - As seen in “Bread,” women and girls were the ones who had to sacrifice time to stand in line. This took away from their ability to go to school, to work, to give care, and limited their contributions to their families and to society
- Make sure a strong support system is in place to bolster societies—and protect women—in tough times
 - Help women gain access to free or subsidized education, child care, health care and any other social services they might need in order to improve the quality of life for themselves, their families and for their communities
- The bottom line is: providing for women provides for everyone

Slide 9

Purpose: Let audience know about related content on IMOW website

Key Talking Points:

- Visit the International Museum of Women's website at www.imow.org to find more information related to this issue. There you can browse Community Voices, which feature content from members of the IMOW community, listen to podcasts, access interviews with women's rights champions, read essays and reports written by experts and interact with various media and artistic pieces

To learn more about women and basic economic rights, you can:

- [Listen to a podcast](#) of professor Eudine Barriteau as she discusses the economic pressures that Caribbean citizens face
- [View photos](#) of working women in Kashmir and Jammu struggling to survive and provide for their families
- [Read an essay](#) by the Women's Global Health Imperative about Poverty, Gender Inequities and HIV/AIDS
- [Hear longtime union leader and economic justice advocate](#) Meizhu Lui explain how the global economic crisis is impacting women in the U.S.

Slide 10



Purpose: Provide tangible action items for audience members

Key Talking Points:

- Join [ActionAid and its Hunger Free campaign](#) and send a letter to your country's leader asking him or her to help eradicate hunger
- Adopt a Village through [Free the Children](#) and ensure that communities have access to clean water, education, alternative income and health care
- Spread the word about important issues around gender equity – talk to your family members, friends, neighbors – make sure your voice is heard!
- Follow IMOW online

EXPLORE MORE

- [Find organizations](#) working on the food crisis from a gender perspective and groups that work with governments to ensure women's rights
- [Access additional stories](#) about gender, hunger and read personal perspectives:

EXTENSION IDEAS

If you are looking for ways to extend your presentation beyond 6 minutes, below are a few suggestions. You can mix and match the ideas to fit your needs, or come up with your own!

- Play two or more *Economica* slideshows together; choose from any of the seven
- Visit the International Museum of Women's "[Women, Power and Politics](#)" exhibition and give a longer talk about physicist and activist Vandana Shiva and her organization *Navdanya*. Ask audience members to reflect on the following statement made by Shiva, "Women have been seed experts, the seed breeders, seed selectors, the biodiversity conservers of the world. And if today we have seeds that we can save, if today we have communities that can tell us the unique properties of different crops and different seeds, it's because we've had generations of women not recognized as agronomists, not recognized as breeders, not recognized in any way as having knowledge. The 10,000 years of human expertise in feeding us is a women's expertise."
- [Read UNIFEM's 2010 publication on Millennium Development Goal #3](#): Promote Gender Equality and Empower Women and focus on page 5, which describes how "food insecurity and instability in food prices ... affect women differently from men."
- Download [Women Thrive Worldwide's fact sheet](#) on women and the food crisis and present the information to your audience. Focus especially on the section titled "How Women Can Be Part of the Solution to the Food Crisis."



- [Choose excerpts](#) to play from the 4-part video series “Understanding the Interactions between Agriculture and Health” on the International Food Policy Research Institute’s website (total length: 90:00)