



## WIT Training Enables Villages' Access to the World

When Najla Abou Hamzeh walks into a room, she commands your attention. At 62 years old, this vibrant WIT participant has witnessed a number of events that shaped Lebanon's history. Throughout her lifetime, she has remained dedicated in her fight to improve women's status in Lebanon stating proudly *"I am a militant for women's rights and I like to improve every woman's financial situation."*



Her desire to increase women's independence through economic means led her to the WIT program. Several months ago, Najla was approached by a company in Sweden interested in handmade crafts from the women of the Abadiyeh village. Najla saw this as a perfect opportunity for the women in her community. However, she faced a daunting challenge – Najla had no idea how to use the internet! Utilizing the internet and a familiarity with computers would be essential in order to send pictures of the crafts and communicate with Sweden. She turned to her son who is the director of one of WIT's most successful partner organizations, Abadiyeh Scout Center, and discovered the WIT program. In a country where technology is often limited to the younger generations, Najla has embraced it wholeheartedly *"After completing WIT, I started telling the women to always pursue what they want and never underestimate themselves or what they are good at...they have to tell the world about it and put it on the internet because it is a tool for elevating their status, be it social or financial!"* Now Najla facilitates the sale of hand-made crafts from women in her village to buyers in Sweden, thus providing them with ways to support their families.

Najla will continue to devote her life to improving women's standing in society and has been an adamant supporter of the WIT project. *"WIT offers a valuable opportunity for every woman because it opens their horizons in all fields. Now she can let the whole world know what she thinks and does, she can share her opinions and make her voice count."*

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