

1 The issue of single mothers is important in Morocco today. These women, who are largely young, poor and uneducated, become outcasts when they find out they are pregnant and let down by the child's father. They are often forced to leave their homes in fear of scandal and embarrassment. They think about getting rid of the child, which often seems to be the only way to be accepted back into their family home. This causes severe problems both for the mothers and their children. And groups which aim to address these problems are scarce.



2 Nabila Tber – the National Institution of Solidarity with Women in Distress (INSAF) director – spoke about the mentality of the single women who come to the association. “The majority of them are unenthusiastic about contacting the association for the first time. Our awareness of this problem makes us use all available capacities to support **them**.” INSAF's first task with a newly single mother is to establish a bond between the mother and the child. Tber says, "Enabling her to nurse him for a short time gives her the opportunity to become attached to her child."

3 Aicha Chenna, President of the Women's Solidarity Association, recalls seeing a mother nursing her child during his first days. She was weeping because she was going to give up her child to the family that was going to adopt him and carry him into the unknown. “The image of this crying mother and the child, who was screaming, was the reason for my commitment to the struggle for every single mother to keep her child,” said Chenna.



4 A source of income and a shelter are the most pressing needs supplied by INSAF. Then, the organisation helps them to register the children in a nursery school. **It** closely follows these women's progress and provides them with additional services when the children are around 2 years old. These include continued medical treatment and providing medicines and milk for the child to reduce the mother's financial burden. It helps in registering the child's birth. Through this process, he is given a family name. It also initiates contact with the single mother's family and the biological father so as to bring them closer. “We've brought 37% of families together with their daughters, and this percentage is rising,” said Tber.

5 The associations also provide emotional and psychological support for single mothers and their children. When asked about her situation, Zahra said, “I want to talk to people, or more specifically, to those living the same tragedy.” Once **they** are older, serious problems can arise as they have been raised away from their parents and do not know their family or personal identity. “We've come across the problem of a man marrying his sister, or a father marrying his daughter without knowing. We thus endeavour to help this mother in her ordeal so that she can guarantee her child a part of his identity and origin by keeping him herself,” Chenna said.

I COMPREHENSION (15 POINTS)

{BASE ALL YOUR ANSWERS ON THE TEXT}

A Are these statements TRUE or FALSE? JUSTIFY your answers. (3 pts)

- 1 There are a lot of associations in Morocco that deal with the problem of single mothers.
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- 2 Single mothers are unwilling to seek their primary assistance from INSAF.
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- 3 A single mother is not fully informed about the destination of her child when adopted by another family.
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B Answer these questions with information from the text. (4 pts)

- 1 Which girls are generally exposed to the problem of becoming single mothers?
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- 2 List two of the most urgent services that INSAF provides single mothers with. (2 pts)
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- 3 How do these associations help single mothers to have psychological assistance?
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C Complete the following sentences with information from the text. (3 pts)

- 1 The association urges the single mother to nurse her baby because
- 2 INSAF not only helps in registering the child's birth, but
- 3 Once these children are older, serious problems can arise due to

D Find in the text words which mean almost the same as: (2 pts)

- 1 relationship (para. 2):
- 2 try (para. 5):

E What does each of the underlined words refer to in the text? (3 pts)

- 1 them (para 2):
- 2 It (para 4):
- 3 they (para 5):

