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Barbara Khol

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Women Represent Over Half Of Third World Poor

by Barbara Khol

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According to a study released July 28 in Washington by the International Rural Development Fund, of 930 million impoverished persons in developing nations, 550 million are women. Of the total, 43 million reside in Latin America and the Caribbean, 18 million in Northern Africa and the Middle East, 130 million in Africa, and 363 million in Asia. Study results indicate that over the past 20 years, the number of women living in poverty in the Third World increased by 20%. Future prospects indicate that the number of impoverished women will increase still further. Fund director Idriss Jazairy said women have become one of the most vulnerable groups in developing nations. The majority of these women, he continued, are forgotten by international development programs, despite the fundamental role they play in agricultural and livestock production. (Basic data from AFP, 07/28/91)

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