

What is TUP?

TUP stands for: Targeting the ultra-poor. A grant based program tailor made for the ultra-poor to facilitate their escape from poverty by providing them a 24-month package of inputs which includes productive livestock, monthly subsistence allowance, basic healthcare training, and linking with social welfare systems.

MISFA started the multi-province scale-up of its flagship program in mid-2015 in Takhar, Balkh, Laghman, Kunar and Herat provinces.

The TUP expansion is funded by the IDA/World Bank, while the expansion in Herat is supported by the Italian Agency For Development Cooperation.

With funding from International Fund for Agriculture Development (IFAD) and in coordination with MAIL, MISFA piloted TUP project in Bamyan and Badakhshan provinces covering a total of 1760 ultra-poor female headed households.

The Program Objectives?

- To bring in economic, social and inspirational changes in the lives of ultra-poor families.
- To graduate the ultra-poor families to socio-economic mainstream within 24 months and link them to sustainable livelihoods.
- To enable the program participants, to access financial services.



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Hopeful for a better future

THE STORY OF Shah Gul

Shah Gul, a 38-year old Afghan woman, and her husband have been struggling for many years to make ends meet for their family of eight children (six boys, two girls). But now, with the arrival of a reproductive cow courtesy of the TUP project, she is hopeful that things will start changing for the better.

“I was hopeless that our condition could ever improve,” said Shah Gul. “I see my husband sometimes crying at the end of the month because he wouldn't be able to pay the rent.”

Shah Gul's husband makes a living by transporting heavy items on his pushcart. He earns between AFN 50 and maximum 150 per day, but very rarely takes home the higher amount. Shah Gul tries to help by washing people's clothes. She gets paid around AFN 300 per day, but she doesn't get work on a regular basis.

Although they have a son, who is now married and has a motorbike that he uses to earn a living, he is not in any position to contribute to



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the household income as he is also struggling to support his own household.

Shah Gul’s family lives in a rental house and they have to pay a monthly rent of AFN 1,500. It is hard to pay rent most times when the combined monthly household income hardly reaches AFN 5,000.

As a coping strategy, Shah Gul, her husband and children cut down on food consumption. “My children sometimes go to sleep without eating dinner,” she said with a sad expression on her face.

Shah Gul, however, is full of hope, especially since she has some knowledge and experience in taking care of livestock. She used to care for cattle before, but had to sell them for a number of reasons, including the insecurity around her village, plus the scarcity of water. “We fetched water on donkeys from far distances,” said Shah Gul. “In my village,

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hardly a drop of water could be found; so all our relatives ended up leaving.”

This is the first time Shah Gul’s family is receiving some kind of help. “I will take good care of this cow and work hard,” she said with great hope and determination, knowing that TUP offers her family a chance to experience a better life.