

## 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.



*"I thank our government for taking care of us and I hope that we will never become refugees in any other country ever again" Mazari*

## A returnee from Iran finds income through TUP

### THE STORY OF Mazari

Mazari, a 38-year old Afghan woman, returned to Afghanistan from Iran with her family four years ago. Since settling in the Nahr-e-Shahi district of Balkh province, she and her husband, along with their two children (a son and a daughter), have been struggling to make ends meet, sharing a small mud house with her brother-in-law's family, and barely eating three square meals a day.

Mazari's husband is a wage laborer and does not have a regular income. On a good day, he manages to earn around AFN 300 from his pushcart service, or for packing onions and potatoes in farms. Feeding and supporting their children is not the only concern of Mazari and her husband. They have to look after a brother of Mazari's husband, who is suffering from severe mental disorder.

After being selected to participate in the Targeting the Ultra-Poor (TUP) program, Mazari received a reproductive cow.



Mazari received the livestock on late June 2016.

As a TUP beneficiary, she also receives a package of assistance including a monthly stipend, health awareness and skills training, referral support to social services and microfinancing institutions, on top of a productive livestock asset. The TUP program also facilitated for her children to attend school.

"We encourage them to study hard," said Mazari. "We tell them that their future will be better than the miserable life we had lived as refugees if they continue studying."

About a month after Mazari received her cow, it gave birth. Mazari, who had been relying solely on her husband's income prior to joining TUP, started generating income herself by selling dairy products from her livestock. She sells four bottles (half litres) of milk and yoghurt each for AFN 25 to the shop near her house.

"Although it was hard for us to eat three times a day, my husband did not want me to work outside of the home or work for others," said Mazari. "Now, I can work in my home and earn."

Mazari earns around AFN 3,000 a month, and she wants to increase her livestock to help her family meet the cost of household expenses.

"Our condition has gotten much better," she said. "I thank our government for taking care of us and I hope that we will never become refugees in any other country ever again."

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