

## 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 and in late 2016 in Kabul and Kandahar 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.



"We have been through lots of hardships until I got this cow," said Saleha

## Escaping from crippling poverty

### THE STORY OF Saleha

Saleha and her family had already been living in poverty in Balkh province, but life took a turn for the worst when her husband got badly injured in a traffic accident in Mazar City. The accident crippled Saleha's husband, who was a daily wage laborer in the market. Not only did the family lose its main source of income, Saleha had to borrow a lot of money from relatives for medical expenses. Her husband survived but was permanently crippled, losing his ability to fulfill his role as breadwinner.

Following the Targeting the Ultra-Poor (TUP) project surveys in the Nahr-e Shahi district of Balkh, Saleha, her husband and four children were identified as among the poorest households in the Langarkhana Khord village, meeting the project's eligibility criteria.

"We have been through lots of hardships until I got this cow," said Saleha referring to the productive cow granted to her as part of the TUP support package. TUP project participants receive a package of assistance for two years, including productive livestock, monthly subsistence allowance, trainings on livelihood, livestock rearing, financial literacy, awareness on social issues, and finally market linkages.

Taking advantage of the opportunity to provide for the family and escape poverty, Saleha worked hard and her efforts paid off. She managed to expand her asset base; now she owns two cows



“My husband says that looking after the livestock provides him an opportunity to contribute,” said Saleha.

producing more than twenty liters of milk, two calves and two lambs. Moreover, Saleha is linked with the Balkh Dairy firm, which collects her cow’s fresh milk and pays her AFN 400 in cash every day.

“Before TUP, we rarely could afford to cook once a day,” said Saleha. “Nowadays, we cook twice a day, and can afford meat. Plus, we have all sorts of dairy products. What else could I desire?”

Through the social awareness and mobilization component of the TUP project, Saleha learned about her rights, including her inheritance rights. This gave her the confidence to claim her share of her father’s property—a rare practice in Afghanistan. Getting her share helped Saleha build a house for her family and also repay the debts she incurred.

Saleha feels she is just beginning to learn and she’s making the most of what TUP offers. She attended a microfinance awareness workshop conducted by microfinance institutions in Balkh and decided to opt for a loan worth AFN 100,000 to buy more livestock.

“My husband says that looking after the livestock provides him an opportunity to contribute,” said Saleha. “I am planning to buy more.”



*Saleha’s husband survived but was permanently crippled, losing his ability to fulfill his role as breadwinner.*