

## 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.



Zeba initially received a milking cow and a calf and just this alone lifted her family's quality of life.

## TUP builds resilience of poorest Afghan women

### THE STORY OF Zeba

When Zeba was in her early 30s, she had her hands full taking care of her five children, while her husband earned a living as a daily wage worker. Although they were among the poor in Takhar Province, they were not in a desperate situation. Zeba would know because she had experienced desperation when her husband was arrested and later found guilty for murder of his cousin following a family dispute.

With her husband sentenced to 15 years in prison, Zeba, found herself desperate. Suddenly, she had to become the breadwinner for her three sons and two daughters. Unprepared for this role, Zeba found it difficult to cope. Soon after her husband's imprisonment, the family fell deeper, becoming among the poorest households in their village.

"I would ask neighbors to give me work in their house," said Zeba. "Often, they would give me some bread, but I could not bring myself to eat it because I could picture my children starving. So, I would wrap the bread in a piece of cloth and bring it home to my kids."

Being identified as an eligible participant in the Targeting the Ultra-Poor (TUP) Project was the best thing that happened to Zeba, now 38 years old.



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TUP is a grant based intervention targeting households who are in abject poverty. The beneficiaries receive a comprehensive package of inputs, including productive asset, monthly stipend, health allowance, health and social awareness, and financial literacy. The two-year intensive program also offers participants trainings in enterprise development, livestock rearing, and market linkages, to help them escape extreme-poverty and be reintegrated to mainstream society.

Zeba initially received a milking cow and a calf and just this alone lifted her family's quality of life. Now she and her children consume part of the milk produced by the cow and sell the remaining, around two liters, in the market everyday.

A year into the TUP program, Zeba's cow gave birth to another calf, increasing the number of her livestock to three. Zeba's livestock is now worth more than AFN

than AFN 100,000 (around USD 1500) indicating a 100 percent increment in initial value of the asset distributed to her. The significant improvement in the family conditions has given Zeba the confidence to utilize her embroidery skills as another source of income. On an average, she earns more than AFN 3,500 a month from her embroidery business.

Now, Zeba is earning enough to support the day-to-day needs of her family, and to save; thus far, she has more than AFN 11,000 in savings. All her school age children are attending school and Zeba is determined to expand her asset base to include poultry, which she finds easy to manage. "Thanks to our government for supporting us through the TUP project," said Zeba. "Now, I can take care of the children better than their father could."