

## 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.



On average, Nooria sells five 800 ml. cans of milk, each priced at AFN 20, earning her AFN 100 a day.

## Looking forward to graduation

### THE STORY OF Nooria

Following a stroke that paralyzed her husband, Sakhidad, Nooria, mother to their four children, had to become the breadwinner. She started selling bread baked in a Tandoor (traditional mud stoves), and bolani (bread with potato filling) in the village. And while Nooria was generating some income from this business, it was far from enough to feed her family.

“There were times when we could not cook for days,” said Nooria, recalling how desperate hers and her family’s situation was. Being among the poorest of the poor in her village in the Dehdadi district of Balkh province, , Nooria and her family were subject to marginalization. Her eldest daughter, she recalled, came home one day in tears after some neighbors had made fun of how she appeared by wearing her father’s footwear.

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TUP beneficiaries receive a comprehensive support package including productive livestock, monthly consumption stipend, skills training and awareness messages in order to escape abject poverty and achieve sustainable livelihoods.

Nooria was provided with a pregnant cow. Unfortunately, the cow died after delivery and Nooria got the second pregnant cow, which gave birth a month later. Nooria now sells the milk and convert some into yoghurt. On average, she sells five 800 ml. cans of milk, each priced at AFN 20, earning her AFN 100 a day.

In addition to livestock rearing, Nooria had diversified her sources of income. She had also started a poultry business. “I wish you were here for lunch,” she told project staff visiting her one afternoon “I could have given you cream, yoghurt and eggs.”

There was a time when school attendance of her children was problematic for Nooria because she couldn’t afford to buy them school supplies. Nowadays, all her children are attending school. “My children grew up under a lot of hardship. I’m just glad that I no longer have to worry about where to get the money to buy them school supplies; my daily earnings can cover such expenses,” said Nooria.

The true test of Nooria’s much improved position in life came when one of her daughters had a devastating accident that severely injured her. Nooria was in a position to bear her treatment cost. Although she had to spend part of her savings on the treatment of her daughter, Nooria still has more than AFN 8,000 in savings left.

As TUP, a two-year intervention program, comes to an end next month, Nooria is looking forward to graduation, knowing that what it means is she is able to stand on her own, confident that she can continue providing a better quality of life for her family.