

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.



With her livestock asset, she is able to sell the milk of her cow in the market herself.

Banking on her savings, a widow plans daughters' future

THE STORY OF MASOOMA

Masooma, a 55-year old widow, used to rely completely on the earnings sent by her husband, who worked as a daily wage laborer in Iran. But after he fell ill, the family resorted to borrowing money from relatives for his treatment and the daily consumption needs of her six children.

When her husband died of his illness, Masooma was forced to become the breadwinner for her children: five daughters and one son. Unable to provide for them, the widow from the Injil district of Herat Province, had to find a way to support the family.

She feels fortunate to become eligible to participate in the Targeting the Ultra Poor (TUP) Project. After joining TUP, Masooma received livestock. It has been 18 months now since she has owned a cow and a calf. Masooma was trained in hygiene and basic financial literacy.

"My life has been changed dramatically," said Masooma. "We eat well now, my kids go to school and I am determined that my daughters complete university so they can serve society and help people like us".



"We ate less and sometimes we could not afford to burn our stove for a week or even more,"-Lajaward

For Masooma, the trainings she received as part of the TUP program are life changing. She continues to be able to apply all her learning in her daily life, which has benefited her entire family.

With her livestock asset, she is able to sell the milk of her cow in the market herself. She is also able to make a living out of her sewing skills, selling blankets. She sews for AFN 1,000 per piece. She is able to also augment her income by selling fresh eggs in the market from her poultry for AFN 7 per egg.

"I bought a fridge, some bathroom accessories, and sewed curtains by myself for my home, from some savings," said Masooma proudly.

Masooma's young daughters are in 11th, 9th, and 6th grades. Her eldest daughter helps her financially by tailoring clothes for

people in the neighborhood. One of her girls knows calligraphy and two other daughters are doing well in their schoolwork. She recognizes that had it not been for the TUP intervention, her daughters would have had to forego their education to help earn income for the household.

Such improvement in her family's quality of life has inspired Masooma to give back.

"I visit our sick relative and neighbors and provide them milk or yogurt so they don't feel helpless like I felt when I lost my husband," she said.

To secure the future of her children, Masooma wants to invest her money on two goats or one more cow. She is only able to plan for her children's future after she learned from TUP trainers how important it is to save money.