

Widows Empowerment Project

IND-ENA-WEP-P02



Uttarakhand, Northern India



Economic Empowerment

Year 2 Budget \$15,500

Project Timeline

FULLY FUNDED

JULY 2018

JUNE 2021

Overview

This project is providing economic empowerment for 60 widows each year in remote villages in rural Uttarakhand, northern India. The widows are given agricultural equipment and seeds, and taught how to increase their outputs. Some are given a pair of goats and taught how to take care of them and breed them. They are provided with business training and networks to sell to, enabling the women to maximise their returns and avoid being taken advantage of. The expectation is that they will eventually be able to send their children to school as their financial situation improves. During the COVID-19 lockdown from April to June, the women's self-help groups were unable to meet for their monthly meetings and training. One-on-one visits occurred during this time and consultations to troubleshoot or discuss issues were carried out by phone. Groups are gradually able to meet again, in small numbers and in COVID-safe ways.



Sureshi Devi's Story

Sureshi Devi, at 64, is the carer of her late husband's second wife and daughter, who both suffer from disabilities. As a widow, she is considered a bad omen and is excluded from much of village life. With only a small house and no land for farming she struggled to support her family. Since joining the project, she has bred her two goats to a herd of five and has grown a kitchen garden. "The vegetables have saved me a lot of money, especially during the lockdown. We had enough to eat and didn't have to worry about buying extra. I can educate my daughter and pay my monthly saving instalments. I'm so thankful to be self-reliant and earning a living at my age".

Impact for January - June 2020



90 women now participate in self-help groups

which run savings programs. Each month they pool their savings and receive training in farming, animal husbandry and business, as well as friendship and support.

Another 10 women joined the widows empowerment program

and were each given a pair of goats and trained to raise, breed and sell them as required.



20 women received seeds for growing crops

such as potato, capsicum, chillies and leafy green vegetables and were trained in growing kitchen gardens.

Masks, sanitisers, soaps and gloves

were distributed to all participants.



Women's Day was celebrated early in the year

with games, refreshments and cultural programs. Local leaders spoke about women's rights and three women shared testimonies about their growing confidence and awareness of their rights and entitlements.



Thank you for making a difference