

Supporting and Empowering Widows

IND-ENA-SEW-PO2



Northern India



Economic Empowerment

Year 2 Budget \$18,000

Project Timeline

\$8,000 TO GO

OCT 2021

SEPT 2024

Overview

This project follows on from a successful program that has been running for four years with Entrust. It provides economic empowerment for 20 new widows each year in remote villages in northern India. They are provided with income generating opportunities such as agricultural farming or goat/poultry rearing. In each case they are given equipment and supplies, and are taught how to increase crop yields as well as animal husbandry and breeding. Business training and selling networks are provided, enabling the women to maximise returns and avoid being taken advantage of. The widows form or join Self Help Groups (SHGs) to save money, take out loans, participate in group learning and sharing their lives.

Impact for April 2022 - March 2023

162 women now participate in 7 self-help groups



which meet monthly, pool their savings and receive training in farming, animal husbandry and business, as well as friendship and support. 42 of these women are widows who joined the groups during this period.

25 new widows in the empowerment program

were selected in this 12 month period and were each given a pair of goats. They are trained to raise, breed and sell them as required. They were given onion seedlings as well as some peas, coriander, capsicum, tomato, cabbage and carrot seeds to cultivate and generate some income.



Self-Help Group members were trained in

agricultural matters such as goat raising and chicken farming, environmental conservation, vermicomposting, cash crop selection as well as health matters including non-communicable diseases (Hypertension, Diabetes and Anemia) and Disability awareness.

- SHGs are running well and members are seeing the benefits, everyone contributing 100 rupees a month. 4 widows took out loans from their respective group for treatment of a broken arm, a new toilet, an iron security gate and a business start-up.
- Widows who lack documentation cannot access government schemes or insurance - this may be due to a lack of education or because their land is officially owned by their in-laws.



Geeta Devi's Story

My husband died three years ago and I was left with 4 children to raise. I was in shock and in a very bad situation economically. I wanted to work but there were no opportunities in my village. A year ago I was selected to be part of this project and I was given 2 goats and some seeds and I have continuously been part of a Self-Help Group. My biggest achievement is the improvement of my mental health. I sold one of my goats and invested the money in my children's education. My plan this year is to learn mushroom cultivation and have my own business. I am proud of myself that I can now support my family and I am earning the respect of my village.



Thank you for making a difference