

Supporting and Empowering Widows

IND-ENA-SEW-P01



Northern India



Economic Empowerment

Year 1 Budget \$15,500

Project Timeline

FULLY FUNDED

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, for group learning and sharing their lives.

Impact for October 2021 - March 2022

110 women now participate in 5 self-help groups which meet monthly, pool their savings and receive training in farming, animal husbandry and business, as well as friendship and support. All women received seeds and saplings during this period.



10 widows in the empowerment program were selected and each given a pair of goats. They are trained to raise, breed and sell them as required.



20 new widows joined the program in this first year. These 20 women, once identified and enrolled, were given an orientation and the opportunity to form a new self-help group. This group will now be registered with the government in the coming months.



- The new women who have joined the program have low literacy and are from very poor background. They are hesitant to take up responsibilities and become office bearers.
- Widows with young children and who are dependent on their in-laws find it difficult to attend meetings regularly and make decisions on their own.
- The project team know it takes time to sensitise the widows to collective action, help them break down community barriers and grow confidence. They have spent time building rapport and trust and finding easy ways to help the women understand.



Kasri Devi's Story

Kasri Devi (above, centre) shared a positive impact of being a member of a Self-Help Group. When her son recently required medical attention, she asked her friends and family for help but no one offered any assistance.

She shared the issue with the other widows in the SHG she started attending just one year ago. They were able to loan her 5000 rupees (\$90). This helped Kasri pay all the treatment expenses for her son. She is very thankful to the group and is motivated to encourage other women to join the project and a savings and loan group. The other women in the group also realise the benefit of savings and have increased their monthly amounts.



Thank you for making a difference