

## Supporting and Empowering Widows

IND-ENA-SEW-PO2



Northern India



Economic Empowerment

Year 2 Budget \$18,000

Project Timeline

FULLY FUNDED

SEP 2021

AUG 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 March - August 2023

160



**Women are registered in 7 self-help groups**

which meet monthly to pool their savings, receive training in farming, animal husbandry and business and support each other.

### The widows empowerment program continues

to support women in farming or raising goats, cattle and chickens. Unseasonally heavy rains and temperatures led to complete crop failure in the region. On top of this, lumpy virus disease has wiped out many livestock causing death or panic selling at low prices. Despite this the communities have rallied together to support each other and share knowledge. 10 women each received a pair of goats.

10



9

**training events were held**

in this reporting period, covering primary health care, kitchen gardens, animal husbandry, organic farming, government programs and loans, seasonal diseases, agricultural cycles and cash crop cycles.



- Eye flu, dengue and typhoid fever have also been rife, causing much fear and disruption. Monthly meetings and special trainings have been affected due to women staying home to isolate. Monsoon rains have made roads impassable or dangerous to travel on, disrupting travel plans for both women and staff making visits. Staff have relied on phone calls to maintain communication.



### Lalita's Story

Lalita is a mother of two very young children. Being very poor she was worried about many things and concerned about raising her children. After registering for the empowerment program, she received two goats and seeds to get started and mentoring from staff. She also became a member of a self-help group and was selected to be its president. She was diligent about attending monthly meetings and special trainings, applying all she learned to improve her livelihood. Recently, Lalita sold three of her goats and combined the proceeds with a loan to start a beauty parlour business in the main local market. Her passion for making something of her life is evident in all she does.



**Thank you for making a difference**