



IND-CHR-WEP-P01 – Northern India
Reporting Period: January – June 2019

Widows Empowerment Project

Budget: \$15,500 fully funded!

Update:

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 goat and taught how to take care of it. 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 this period, an additional 40 widows were given a pair of goats that they are raising, breeding and selling as required. Better quality seeds were distributed according to the size and location of their fields. After harvesting, the ladies brought their crops to the centre where our partners helped them find the best market to sell them.

The women have organised themselves into four new self-help groups to run a savings program set up by our partners. They meet once a month and are encouraged to save a small amount each time. At each meeting they are also trained in farming, animal husbandry and business. Our partners regularly visited each widow separately, checking on her goats and crops and provide advice and support.

Dhanna (above, right) was a very poor and needy widow, with 3 dependent children until she joined the empowerment program last year. After her husband's death, her house started leaking in the rainy season and was very cold in the winters because of cracks in the doors and windows. After growing crops and selling them in the market she started earning some income and saving it with her group. She applied for a loan of 10,000 rupees to renovate her house. She now has a safe place to live peacefully and comfortably with worries about the weather and wild animals. She is paying back a fixed amount every month. She is very thankful for the opportunity to access this funding without being in debt to loan sharks with extra interest rates

Thank you for your part in helping these women regain their dignity and their place in society and for giving them a future.

