



## Village life improvement project

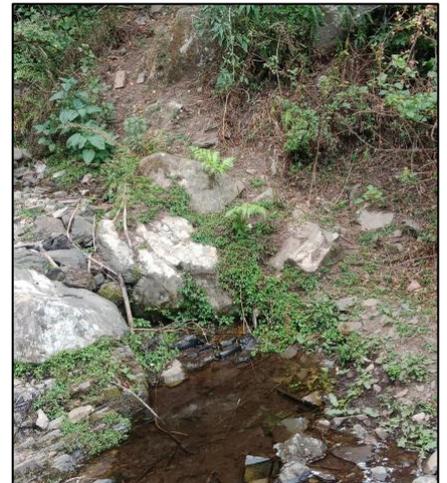
**Budget:** \$23,000 fully funded.

### The Project:

This project focuses on three key aspects contributing to poverty in remote villages in northern India; lack of access to clean water, lack of sanitation facilities, and lack of food. The aim is to provide empowerment to as many women as possible in this poor rural area. The hill women of Uttarakhand work 16 hours a day and bear the brunt of looking after the fields, the household and the children. However, they are usually unable to earn an income and contribute to the family finances. Our partner is working with these village women to construct green houses to grow vegetables which improve nutrition and provide cash crops for sale to the nearest big town; construct composting latrines with sanitation and hygiene training; rain catchment tanks and water systems to provide easy and quick access to clean water.

### Outcomes and Impacts:

- **Coronavirus** has severely impacted India even though they have had one of the world's strictest lockdowns since 24 March 2020. It has been a devastating time for a nation with a large proportion of the population who are transient workers or who live in poverty and are struggling to make ends meet. Entrust funding has meant that this project could continue to support the communities they work with in handing out food parcels, health education and to plan ahead. The SHG groups have sewn masks for their village and have been able to sell them at market to earn some income and sustain themselves at this time.
- Due to a delay in funding, this project year was extended to 18 months. During the last 12 months, four new water catchment areas were established. This has been a great success, creating water sources throughout the summer months for irrigating crops instead of only during the monsoon season (photo right). The next step is to plant more trees in the catchment area and to dig new water pits for collection.
- 3 greenhouses were erected in 2 target villages. It was the first time that the women were encouraged to understand the technology used to build the greenhouses and they also learned to use the machines. They got the chance to help build the greenhouses (strictly built by men in the past) and are now able to maintain them in the future. This has a positive impact in terms of sustainability as well as dignity and independence. As a result of the greenhouses, sanitation and nutrition improve and women can generate an income for themselves by selling vegetables at market.
- The 11 composting toilets built this year have reduced the cost of buying chemical fertilizers for crops but more importantly have had a positive impact on people's health and safety.



Thank you for supporting these communities, especially the women, in northern India. Our partners are working together with the local village people to improve sanitation, nutrition and quality of life in very harsh conditions.