

## **Empowering Women** Farmers in Kunduz Province through Skills and Knowledge in Dairy Sector.



One of these women is Bibi Basira resident of village Otagan Tapa in the Imam Sahib District.

Bibi Basira is now a successful dairy entrepreneur, who attended AWARE-supported training and educational sessions to improve her farming skills and learnt more about the importance of animal source foods and income.

### **Success Story**

## **Breaking the Taboo in Dairy Sectors**

Before enrolling into the AWARE's dairy value chain intervention Bibi Basira had few cows but she had no idea of selling milk through a premium price. Turning animals into productive means of income was like a hoax because milk selling traditionally in her village was considered a taboo and socially a downgraded activity. She had few cows and a piece of cultivable land but still she was facing cumbersome economic hardships because the traditional animal raising was not sufficient to even fulfil the nutritional and monetary needs of her family even though her children were not so regular in their schools because of their multiple engagements in the field during the harvesting seasons.

Her engagement in the AWARE's dairy value chain program not only changed her perception about milk selling but also transformed her from an ordinary woman farmer to a more productive and successful dairy entrepreneur.

She had not any idea of improving milk production and animal health, but through multiple training offered by the AWARE project she Bibi Basira gained livestock management skills, including vaccination, deworming, and primary disease treatment coupled with financial and business management skills and life skills which gave her courage and confidence to break the traditional misconception regarding milk supply business in her village and the local market.

After gaining confidence and acquiring the livestock and milk supply chain management skills she was also facilitated with necessary dairy implements and assets as kick-start input.

Says Bibi Basira - " I am so happy that I am the one to negate the negative perception of selling milk in my village – AWARE's support to women farmers in our village has not only improved the quality, variety of the food and household nutrition but uplifted the economic and social status of many of us. With this economic gain I can support the education of my children and pool a major share in our household economic matters, which has improved my social status in my family and village".

