



SUCCESS STORY

FROM STRUGGLES TO SUCCESS:

Ms. Oghol Bibi's Journey to Empowerment Through the AWARE Project

In the village of Bish-Kapa Turkmenia, located seven kilometers from Imam Sahib District in Kunduz, a remarkable story of transformation is unfolding. It is the story of Ms. Oghol Bibi, a determined and hardworking woman, who has emerged as a symbol of empowerment and resilience through the support of the AWARE project.

Living with her extended family, including her husband, children, mother-in-law, and other relatives, Ms. Oghol faced significant economic and social challenges. The family depended on her husband's meager earnings as a farmer and livestock keeper, using traditional methods to raise local cows. The low milk production barely covered the costs of feeding their cows, let alone meeting the family's needs. High feed prices, limited access to veterinary care, and a lack of financial literacy compounded their struggles.

Adding to her difficulties was the cultural and linguistic isolation, Ms. Oghol spoke only Turkmen and lacked literacy skills, which left her heavily dependent on others for basic tasks. Financial strains were particularly acute during events like weddings and Eid, when she often had to borrow money to provide for her children. The family's limited understanding of family rights also led to frequent conflicts, further adding to her distress.



THE TURNING POINT

Ms. Oghol's life began to change when she joined the WABC group under the AWARE project. Through this initiative, she participated in comprehensive technical training on livestock and dairy production, financial literacy, business and marketing, family well-being, and social and economic development.

Her involvement in a women's self-help group (WSHG) fostered a culture of saving and mutual support among the 23 group members. They met regularly to save money, share experiences, and collaboratively solve problems. These meetings became a platform for empowerment, helping Ms. Oghol and others build confidence and resilience.

TRANSFORMING LIVELIHOODS

With improved knowledge and support from the AWARE project, Ms. Oghol purchased an improved cow for 85,000 Afghanis, borrowing 5,000 AFNs from the WSHG's savings fund. Her investment paid off, as she saw a significant increase in milk production. Today, with two improved cows, Ms. Oghol produces 40 liters of milk daily, which she sells at 25 AFNs per liter.

Beyond selling milk, she has diversified her products, preparing yogurt, cream, butter, and buttermilk, which have become popular in the local market. This diversification has significantly increased her income. Improved cows not only produce more milk but also yield calves that sell for nearly three times the price of local calves, providing additional financial security.

In collaboration with her WSHG members, Ms. Oghol also contributed to establishing a local supermarket with an investment of 48,000 AFNs from their savings fund. The group's collective efforts enabled the transfer of a refrigerator to the supermarket, ensuring the freshness of their dairy products and increasing sales.

IMPACT BEYOND ECONOMICS

The AWARE project has had a profound impact on Ms. Oghol's personal and family life. The financial stability she has achieved has allowed her to meet her children's needs without borrowing money, reducing stress and fostering harmony within the family. Life skills and family well-being training have improved her relationships, fostering mutual respect and reducing conflicts.

Ms. Oghol credits the AWARE team for their unwavering support, which has not only changed her family's economic situation but also positively influenced her husband's behavior. Together, they now enjoy a stable and harmonious family life.

A ROLE MODEL FOR THE COMMUNITY

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A VISION FOR THE FUTURE

Ms. Oghol's story exemplifies the transformative power of access to resources, training, and community support. Her success underscores the importance of initiatives like the AWARE project in fostering sustainable development and empowering women.

With continued support from donors, stories like Ms. Oghol's can pave the way for a brighter future, not just for individual families but for entire communities.