



ACTION STORY

# United Afghan Womens Organsiation

## Harvesting Hope: How Women-Led Cultivation is Transforming Buzdara Village

### Project Overview and Strategic Adaptation

The Green Roots project, implemented by the United Afghan Women Organisation (UAWO) and supported by Global Landcare, is a testament to the power of community led land restoration. While the initiative was originally designed for tree planting, the team faced a two month delay in receiving funds which meant the primary planting season had already passed. To ensure the grant was utilised effectively and provided immediate value, UAWO successfully adapted the project to focus on high impact vegetable cultivation. This proactive shift allowed the organisation to empower local women while strengthening food security within Buzdara Village.

### Land Preparation and Agricultural Activities

The implementation phase involved the transformation of approximately 2 canals of land into a productive agricultural site. The UAWO team managed the intensive process of site preparation, which included clearing, plowing, and levelling the soil to create an ideal environment for growth. Once the land was ready, high quality seeds for palak (spinach) and muli surkhak (red radish) were purchased and sown. To ensure a healthy and sustainable yield, the team procured specialised fertilisers and soil enhancers while arranging a reliable water supply for consistent irrigation

The project also focused on long term capacity building by providing essential farming equipment such as shovels, hoes, and water cans. Throughout this process, local women were central to the operations, participating directly in the planting and maintenance. This hands on involvement provided them with practical learning opportunities in modern vegetable farming and sustainable land management techniques, ensuring the community gained both immediate produce and lasting skills.



### Empowering Women and Supporting Widows

A defining feature of this project is the waqf (dedication) of the produce to the most vulnerable members of the community. While UAWO continues to oversee the management of the land, the entirety of the harvest is dedicated to widows in the village. This system ensures that approximately five widows benefit directly from the food produced, providing them with essential food security and the potential for small scale income from any surplus. By turning a seasonal delay into an opportunity for vegetable farming, the Green Roots project has created a vital lifeline that supports livelihoods and fosters resilience in Buzdara Village.

### Summary and Future Outlook

In conclusion, the Green Roots project successfully navigated seasonal challenges to deliver a sustainable agricultural model that prioritises those most in need. By converting 2 canals of land into a thriving source of nutrition, UAWO has established a foundation for ongoing food security and female empowerment in Buzdara Village. Moving forward, the organisation remains committed to managing this land and ensuring the system of dedication to local widows remains a permanent pillar of community support. The success of this adaptation proves that with flexible support and local expertise, even unexpected delays can be transformed into meaningful, life changing growth.



2 canals, 1000  
sqm transformed



2 crops sowed



5 widowed  
families with  
food