

PORTRAITS OF **PROMISE**



A Herd of Hope

One of the core projects that your partnership with Orphan's Promise makes possible is our Keeping Families Together (KFT) initiative. We know children thrive best when they grow up in a family setting, and there is no better place for them to experience healthy family dynamics than in their own homes. So, KFT comes alongside vulnerable families to empower them with the tools they need to stay together. Come join us at a small community in central Nepal to meet Sharmila and her kids.

These are the stories.
These are the souls.
These are the portraits of the lives we're changing.







LOSING A LOVED ONE

Sharmila and her three children live in the Dukuchhap village, which is in the Lalitpur district of central Nepal. It's relatively rural, having just a few thousand people who call this area home.

Nepal has made progress in decreasing poverty over the last decade, but much of that growth was threatened by the impact of the pandemic. This meant that millions of people faced multidimensional poverty¹—including Sharmila.

This single mother is hopeful, hardworking, and resilient. She's also good with animals and knows how to work the land. She has gentle eyes and a soft smile, but her gentleness is hard won. She has been through a lot in her 37 years of life, managing to keep her family together despite the daily hardships of life in rural Nepal.



On top of the economic devastation of the pandemic, she also had to navigate the loss of her husband. He struggled with alcoholism and passed away last year from tuberculosis, leaving Sharmila the sole provider for her family.

She would fall asleep worrying about her children, unsure if she could make ends meet and give them the education and opportunities she dreamed they would have. She worked hard as a day laborer on surrounding farms, but it wasn't enough.

Fortunately, Orphan's Promise heard her story, and our local staff on the ground with KFT offered her the support she needed.





GOATS FOR SHARMILA

Through KFT, Sharmila and her children received educational opportunities, medical aid, and income support. During an assessment, the KFT team talked with Sharmila about what kind of small business she would like to start so that she could provide for herself and her kids in a sustainable way. Sharmila shared her background in farming, and her experience taking care of goats. Your partnership helped support Sharmila's dream by providing a few goats for her to start a small goat farm. Sharmila was grateful to take care of her own animals and work on building her own business. She took good care of the animals and they started to multiply. She started with eight goats and within a year, she had more than 15!

“When I had no way of earning, I worried day and night about my children. I thought I couldn’t be a good mother because I couldn’t provide them with their basic needs and their education. But now because of the business support I have received, I am able to make a profit from goat farming and spend the money on my children’s education,” Sharmila shared. **“I never thought that this business would be such a big help to me and my children. In the coming days, I will continue to invest all my profits in my children’s education and basic living needs.”**

According to UNICEF, “schooling and nutritional deprivations contribute most to ongoing multidimensional poverty in Nepal.”²

LIGHT AHEAD

With her herd of goats continuing to grow, Sharmila can now sell a goat whenever she needs additional profit. When her daughters, Sushmita and Puja, needed school uniforms and supplies, Sharmila could provide for them with what she had earned from her farm. She no longer has to fear a financial crisis because she is becoming financially independent and is able to exercise her personal agency. She hopes to continue expanding her business so that her children can go on to attend higher education and get good jobs in the future.

Her son, Sujan, is 18 years old and is currently in the 12th grade. He studies diligently and helps his mom in the afternoons. He hopes to get a good job when he finishes school so that he can support his family. Sharmila's eldest daughter, Sushmita, is 16. She loves to dance, spend time with her friends, and travel. She works hard in school and makes good grades. Sharmila's youngest daughter, Puja, is 13. She loves to dance like her older sister and wants to be a teacher when she grows up.





INCREASE YOUR GENEROSITY!

The most effective way to give and maximize your gift is to give a recurring monthly gift. If you'd like to become a monthly partner with Orphan's Promise, please fill out the enclosed "You Pledge, We Pledge" form and return it in the Business Reply Envelope. We'll count on you to ensure our commitment to these children is fulfilled!

**If you'd like to give a special gift to Orphan's Promise,
there are four easy ways you can give:**

Give online by visiting OrphansPromise.org/Promise

Text PROMISE to 71777 and give from your mobile phone

Call 1-800-818-4016 to give by phone

You can **mail a check** made out to Orphan's Promise to:

Orphan's Promise
977 Centerville Turnpike
Virginia Beach, VA 23463

**Thanks for your generosity.
We look forward to making a difference together.**



“Before joining KFT, I had no interest in studying, and I did not want to go to school. Slowly, as I started attending training at KFT, I learned many things through different trainings and learned about the importance of education in my life. I got involved with the friends I made in the KFT project. ... I am grateful to KFT for encouraging me to study and providing educational support. I would like to thank KFT and the project coordinator for helping me and my family during this tough situation. I am blessed to be a part of KFT,” Sushmita said.

Because of your faithful compassion, Sharmila and her children have a much brighter future. Instead of worrying where their next meal is coming from or wondering if they will be able to go to school, they have a consistent source of income and a stable means of getting their basic needs. While they continue to cope with the loss of their father, they are building a firm foundation of stability and opportunity for the years ahead.

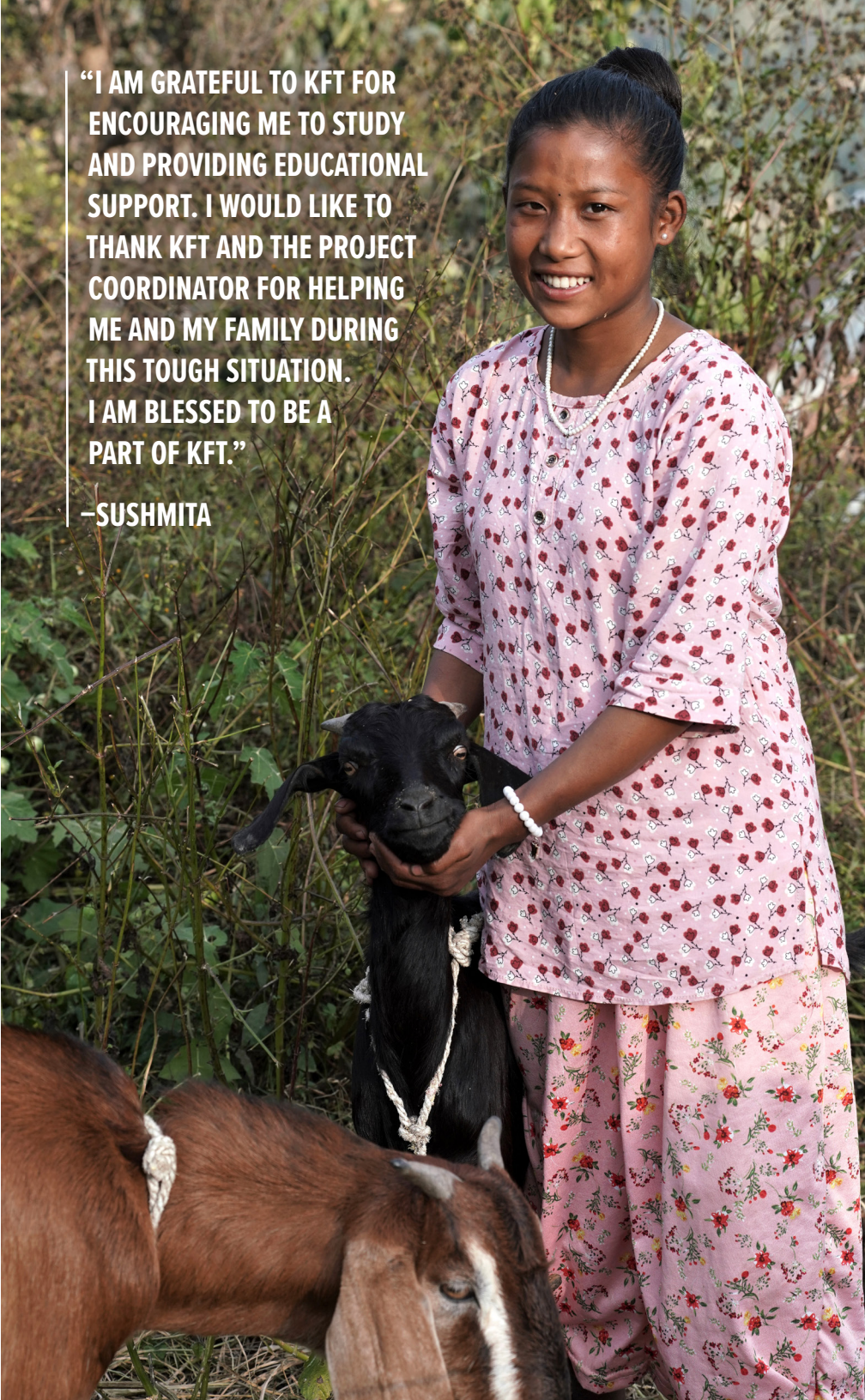
Thank you for investing in Sharmila’s entrepreneurship so that she can provide for her family. It is such an honor to work alongside you to help keep families like this together. Thank you for bringing hope to Sharmila and her kids!

1. UNICEF, *Country Office Annual Report 2020*, <https://www.unicef.org/media/101061/file/Nepal-2020-COAR.pdf>.

2. UNICEF, *Nepal Multidimensional Poverty Index 2021: Report*, <https://www.unicef.org/nepal/reports/nepal-multidimensional-poverty-index-2021-report>.

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—SUSHMITA





give us a call: 1-800-818-4016

orphanspromise.org

Orphan's Promise, a children's ministry of The Christian Broadcasting Network, Inc., serves orphans and other vulnerable children around the world, taking them from at-risk to thriving through the transforming power of God's love. CBN is a non-profit 501(c)(3) charitable organization and your contributions to our ministry may be tax-deductible.

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