



# November 2021 Featured Project

A path out of poverty for women in Nepal



TOGETHER WOMEN RISE

# Introducing Sunsar Maya

## SuMa Women's Literacy: Educating and Empowering for Change

- Provides women in extreme poverty in Nepal with education and support to transform their lives and build pathways out of poverty
- Takes holistic approach to education, ensuring opportunities for access



# About Nepal

- Population 30 million
- Among the least developed and poorest countries in the world
- 1 out of 4 people live below the poverty line
- 1 out of 4 children under age 5 underweight
- Home to 8 of the world's 10 highest peaks



# Life Challenges

## For women in Nepal

- High rates of illiteracy
- High dropout rates
- High poverty and income inequality
- 40% of girls married before age 18
- Cultural barriers/caste system
- 48% have experienced violence



# The Project

- Literacy/numeracy classes in conversational and written English, Nepali, and mathematics
- Workshops on small business and entrepreneur skills (operating a small business, marketing, accounting, taxes, etc.) and family matters (early childhood development, healthy parenting skills)
- Women's councils to create community connection, build leadership skills, and provide forum to identify pressing challenges and develop creative solutions

**(OVER 2 YEARS) 740 DIRECT BENEFICIARIES AND 3,655 INDIRECT BENEFICIARIES (FAMILY MEMBERS)**



# The Project

Improves women's

- Income-earning potential
- Political participation
- Community involvement
- Reproductive and overall health
- Self-esteem and confidence
- Outcomes for their children



# Budget

Item	Description	Cost
Teachers	2 head teachers, 7 full-time teachers, 5 part-time teachers	\$9,570
Caretakers	2 full-time caretakers/cooks (cook, clean, general maintenance)	\$2,930
Teaching supplies	Books, paper, pencils, activity supplies, etc.	\$7,500
Medical	Twice yearly medical camps (regular physical and annual reproductive exam); follow-ups with specialists; prescribed medicine and supplements when needed	\$2,000
Women's Council	Facilitator, staffing, and training	\$3,000
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>\$25,000</b>

# About Sunsar Maya

- Founded in 2011 by Executive Director Jehán Seirafi, board member Ginger Colton, James Kearns, and Santiago Diab
- Serves women of all ages, with the average age between 30 and 60 in the communities of Jorpati and Mahalaxmi
- Offers after-school program for ages 3 – 17 living in orphanages and/or extreme poverty
- Piloted the first SuMa Women's Literacy program in 2016 to address Nepal's low adult literacy rate

# Share your thoughts

- How do you think gaining literacy skills affect all areas of a person's life?
- How does this project promote gender equality?
- What is the benefit of inviting the broader community to the workshops?





SUN SAR  
MAYA



TOGETHER WOMEN RISE

# November 2021 Sustained Grantee

## Bond Street Theatre

### Women and Girls Speak Out for Justice

- August 2014 Featured Grantee
- Works in areas of conflict and poverty, with a focus on women, children, and youth, and those who immediately influence their lives
- Aims to educate and empower individuals to advocate on their own behalf, and spark community dialogue in service of social advancement and tolerance



# Bond Street Theatre

Direct Impact: 60 - 150

Indirect Impact: 6,000 members of the community

- For women and girls in Afghanistan, Myanmar, and Malaysia
- Gives tools and training to speak out for equal rights through theatre, leadership, advocacy training, and informational community performances
- Creative arts model educates, empowers, and heals

