

#### August 2023 Featured Project

Addressing the noncommunicable disease crisis in India through nutrition education for girls

**Introducing Arogya World** 

Mission: works to prevent noncommunicable diseases (NCDs) in India through health education and lifestyle change

Innovative, community-based doorstep health model delivering prevention programming outside of traditional healthcare systems



#### **About India**

- Population of almost 1.4 billion
- Second most populated country on Earth
- 360 million live in squalid conditions;
   among the most impoverished in the world
- 20% live far below the poverty line
- Discrimination against women and girls is rampant, corruption entrenched, unequal distribution of quality education
- Gujarat (project area) about the size of Kansas but home to 71.5 million people versus 2.92 million in Kansas



## Life Challenges for Women Served

- The Noncommunicable Disease
   (NCD) crisis in India is staggering
- NCDs account for nearly 2/3 of deaths
- Financial burden high in vulnerable communities - cost of healthcare, financial consequences are catastrophic
- Adolescents experience triple burden of malnutrition: undernutrition, overweight, and hidden hunger caused by a lack of essential nutrients, especially rural girls



Rural Adolescent Girls Health and Nutrition Education

 Tests effectiveness and impact of Rural MyThali, which translates India's National Institute of Nutrition (NIN) guidelines into easy-to-follow picture format that is regionspecific

 Educates adolescents about basics of healthy living before lifestyle habits are set

Focus groups (girls and their mothers)
assess food preferences/habits, locally
available food and more



#### The Project

Project phases:

**Formative Research** – Dietary practices and dietary diversity, knowledge assessment

**Development of Action Plan / MyThali** activity calendar for 12 weeks – supports use of MyThali comic book on basics of Foods and Nutrition, plus additional region-specific, culturally relevant tools

Capacity building – Development and pretesting of intervention Tool Kit in vernacular language using regional meals (left for future use by schools)

**Impact Evaluation** – Assessing impact of intervention

EACH YEAR OF 2-YEAR PROJECT — DIRECT IMPACT: 1,600 (800 INTERVENTION); INDIRECT IMPACT: APPROXIMATELY 8,000 FAMILY MEMBERS



### **Budget**

Item	Description	Cost
Project Management	Portion of direct cost to manage project, plus oversight	\$10,000
Field Implementation	On-the-ground implementation and execution	\$20,000
Materials Development	Encompasses the cost of altering current materials based on focus group input, translation, and printing	\$3,000
Training	Training modules development and training sessions	\$4,000
Impact Evaluation	Data collection, analysis, and reporting	\$5,000
Travel	Travel for trainings, partner liaising, and project update	\$3,000
Total		\$45.000

#### **About Arogya World**

- Established in 2010 by Dr. Nalini Saligram and three other founding board members, dedicated, passionate women with goal of making an impact on global health
- Leverages strategic partnerships, existing networks, and technology for cost-effective, impactful programs including mDiabetes (diabetes prevention program), MyThali (builds awareness on healthy eating and nutrition) and more
- Educated 6 million people on healthy living, aims to reach 50 million in next
   5 years with evidence-based, user-centered programs with demonstrated impact

# Discussion: Share Your Thoughts

- 1. Why is delivering programming where people "live, learn, and work" more effective than traditional methods?
- 2. How do you think a reduction in NCDs can affect gender equality?
- 3. What roadblocks might a girl experience when trying to introduce nutrition, exercise, and anti-tobacco changes to her family?



