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Newsletter



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A photograph of a woman wearing a blue sari and a blue headscarf, holding a young child. The woman is looking directly at the camera with a slight smile. The child is also looking at the camera. The background is blurred, showing what appears to be an outdoor setting with some structures.

Changing Lives, Strengthening Communities in India

At Myriad Canada we understand that philanthropy is about personal stories, stories that may take us beyond our borders. In this issue of our newsletter, we highlight projects carried out by Myriad Canada supporting women, girls and youth in India, thanks to Canadian donors.

In the Margins, Hope Takes Root

In the shadow of Mumbai’s soaring skyline, another reality is growing just as quickly—one shaped by overcrowded settlements, fragile health systems, and widening inequality. As the country urbanizes at breakneck speed, millions in informal communities remain cut off from basic healthcare and nutrition.

Nearly 41% of Mumbai’s residents live in slums, where mothers and their children face alarming rates of malnutrition and limited access to antenatal care,

Transforming Lives, one Family at a Time

It all began with one doctor’s resolve. Founded in 1998 by Dr. Armida Fernandez, a pioneering neonatologist and former dean at Lokmanya Tilak Municipal General Hospital, **SNEHA grew from what she witnessed daily: malnourished children and women facing violence at home.**

SNEHA supports planned parenthood, antenatal care, safe deliveries, and a child’s “first 1000 days,” promoting breastfeeding, immunization, and nutrition through early childhood.

They contribute to strengthening the public health system by training frontline workers, bridging gaps in care, and helping families access government support. They also address gender-based violence, linking women to counseling and care.

The impact is measurable: in one area, malnutrition dropped by 27%. But for Dr. Fernandez, the real success lies in empowered communities—creating change, one family at a time.

In Mumbai’s Wadala neighbourhood, a focused effort, managed by Myriad Canada, is underway to improve the health of mothers and infants. The initiative aims to ensure that essential services reach those who need them most.

supplements, and family planning. Systemic gaps put women and newborns at heightened risk, while short intervals between births of siblings further threaten child survival.

Yet amid these challenges, hope is taking root. **The Society for Nutrition, Education and Health Action (SNEHA)** has spent decades quietly transforming lives in underserved communities. Myriad Canada collaborates with SNEHA to manage a project in a Mumbai neighbourhood.



Dr Armida Fernandez, Founder, SNEHA, in the field

© SNEHA

“Yes, the problem seems daunting. But when I see the SNEHA team working on the ground, I can see the difference they make life by life, person by person.”

- Sweety Pathak, SNEHA Program Director

A Canadian Donor’s Commitment to Healthy Beginnings

Looking to explore potential projects to support in India, Torontonion Anurag Arun contacted Myriad Canada. The project in Wadala was a deeply personal match for him. After losing his wife and son during childbirth, he was drawn to helping other mothers and babies receive the care they need.

Visiting the project in Mumbai sealed his commitment. After spending a day in the field with SNEHA’s team, meeting mothers and families, he saw the impact firsthand. “Seeing it is believing it,” he says.

“Childbirth is one of the most beautiful, critical moments in humanity. A safe, healthy birth must be the priority.”

Anurag gives funds to Myriad Canada in honour of his late wife, Ekta, who was of Indian origin. He hopes to see the Wadala project model expand to underserved communities around the world.



Anurag Arun with his late wife, Ekta



Mother and child, Wadala project, Mumbai

© SNEHA

Measurable Impact

Financial support strengthens training for frontline health workers and volunteers, improves access to maternal and child healthcare and ensures critical gaps in services are filled. **The result is measurable: healthier mothers, reduced child malnutrition, and an empowered community better equipped to sustain change independently.**

Additional Projects Managed by Myriad Canada

Fostering a Dynamic Learning Environment at IIT Kanpur

With the support of Canadians, Myriad Canada works with the **Indian Institute of Technology Kanpur** on a project in Kanpur, Uttar Pradesh, in Northern India, to create a lasting impact on students from economically challenged backgrounds by providing access to education, research and healthcare.



Girls Decked up for the day with posters they designed for International Women's Day '26

Advancing Girls' Rights

Myriad Canada works with **VOW for Girls** on a project to help change harmful social norms through evidence-based awareness and community action. Every year, 12 million girls around the world are forced into child marriage, losing their rights to education, health, and safety. Nearly one in four girls in India marries before 18, yet less than 2% of global philanthropic funding reaches grassroots efforts addressing this issue.

By strengthening support for girls' rights and women's leadership, this project builds lasting change from the ground up.

Investing in Women, Strengthening Communities

Founded in 1987, the **Tibetan Nuns Project** supports more than 800 nuns in northern India, helping women who fled Tibet rebuild their lives through education and opportunity. What began as support for displaced nuns has grown into a powerful movement for women's empowerment, cultural preservation, and community strength. By investing in these women as students, teachers, and leaders, the project creates a ripple effect of hope and lasting impact far beyond the nunneries themselves.

Breaking the Cycle of Exploitation

In India, trafficking and forced prostitution trap generations of women and girls in cycles of exploitation and poverty. Myriad Canada collaborates with **Apne AAP** to help break that cycle by keeping girls in school and out of the sex trade. Through a project providing education, food support, and safe learning spaces in red-light districts, girls gain the chance to build independent futures. The organisation believes that changing one girl's path can transform generations.



MYRIAD CANADA

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The Myriad Alliance for Borderless Giving is a global network of trusted member organizations that facilitate cross-border giving with independent offices in Canada; the United States; Europe; Australia; New Zealand; Singapore; China, and Hong Kong SAR, PRC.

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