



Adolescent Girls Power Groups: Impact Assessment and COVID-19 Perception and Practice Analysis

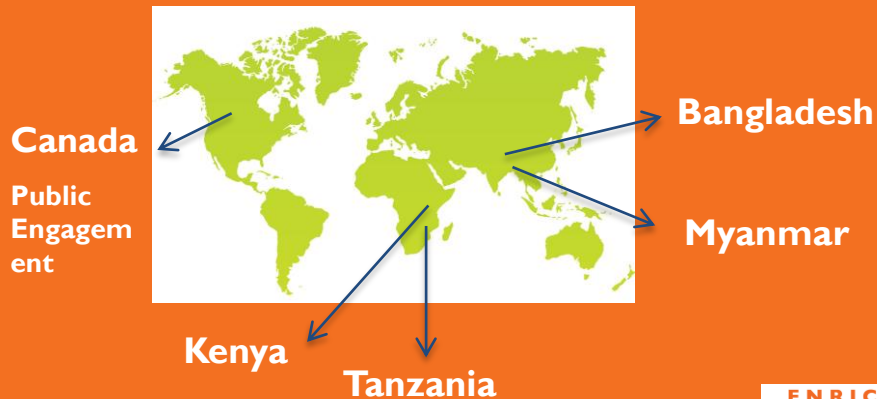
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Enhancing Nutrition Services to Improve Maternal and Child Health in Africa and Asia

<https://1000dayjourney.ca/>

Target countries



Key Partners

Nutrition International

Harvest Plus



Canadian Society for International Health

University of Toronto



CAD \$47million
ENRICH COVID response = \$5million
Total = \$52million



5 years
(March, 2016- Dec. 2021)



Direct beneficiaries total: 1.6 million people of which

470,000 children

630,000 women

Indirect beneficiaries total: 1.7 million people

ENRICH Program

Description

Ultimate outcome:

- Contribute to the reduction of maternal & child mortality in targeted regions of the 4 countries in Asia and Africa.

Intermediate outcomes

1. Improved delivery of gender-responsive essential nutrition and health services for mothers, PW, newborns, & CU2, **and** respond to COVID-19 pandemic.
2. Increased production, consumption and utilization of nutritious foods & micronutrient supplements by mothers, PW & CU2
3. Strengthened gender-responsive governance, policy and public engagement on MNCH in Canada and target countries

ENRICH Bangladesh



District (Thakurgaon)
Sub- District :5
Union : 53
Targeted Village (PFA) : 298



Direct Beneficiary : 404,343
Indirect Beneficiary : 1,043,330



Adolescent Girl Power Groups

- A gender analysis conducted in early 2018, revealed pervasive gender inequalities that contribute significantly to poor nutrition and health outcomes among adolescent girls and pregnant and lactating women and their children.
- To address the particular health risks and vulnerabilities facing girls during adolescence and to harness their potential as community mobilizers, ENRICH created Adolescent Girl Power Groups (AGPGs)
- 16 AGPGs and 320 members



The focus of the AGPGs

- Promote maternal, adolescent and child micronutrient supplementation, g
- Gender-equal food production, consumption and feeding practices,
- Menstrual hygiene management,
- Greater involvement of men in supporting women and the eradication of early marriages, and GBV,
- Girls' economic empowerment, and greater participation of women and girls in decision-making related to their health and well-being.
- COVID-19 community risk communication.

AGPGs study

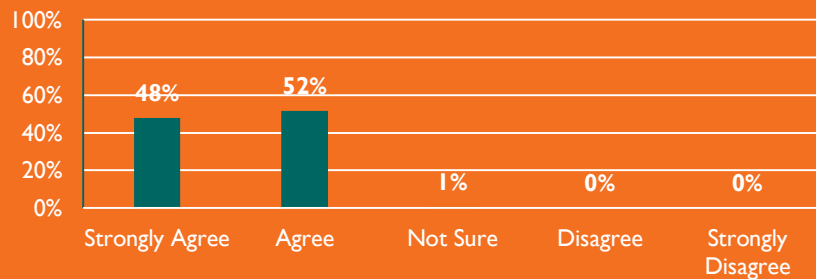


Aim: to assess the progress AGPGs have made while also attempting to understand and mitigate the impact of the virus on AGPG goals and the gains made to date.

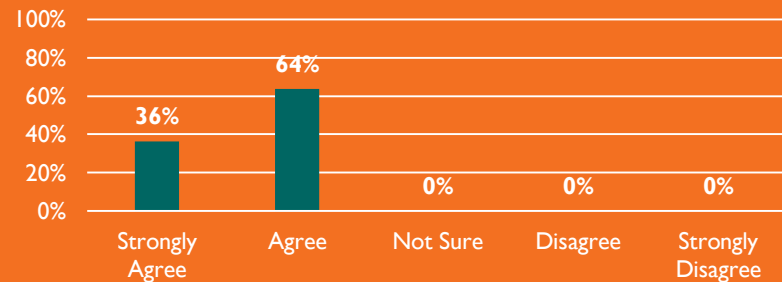
September 21st to September 28th, 2020; consisted of mixed methods: survey, Focus Group Discussions (FGDs), Key Informant Interviews (KIIs) and In-depth Interviews (IDIs) with AGPG members, their parents and AGPG facilitators.

AGPGs study

"Since I started participating in the AGPG, I am making decisions in my life more than before."



"Since I started participating in the AGPG, my parents/family are more supportive of me making decisions for myself."



Results



AGPGs have contributed to girls' confidence, self-worth, social networks, mobility, and health knowledge, while elevating their status and decision-making power within their families and communities.

"We are now much more confident than before. We can talk face to face with others freely and with confidence. Before joining the group, we were not able to do that. We feel ourselves valued and empowered when we talk with people and peers about these issues"

AGPG member

Impact of COVID-19



AGPG activities, trainings and school sessions were paused temporarily

The impact of the pandemic on the girls' lives including education, mental health, purchasing power, and health care was significant.

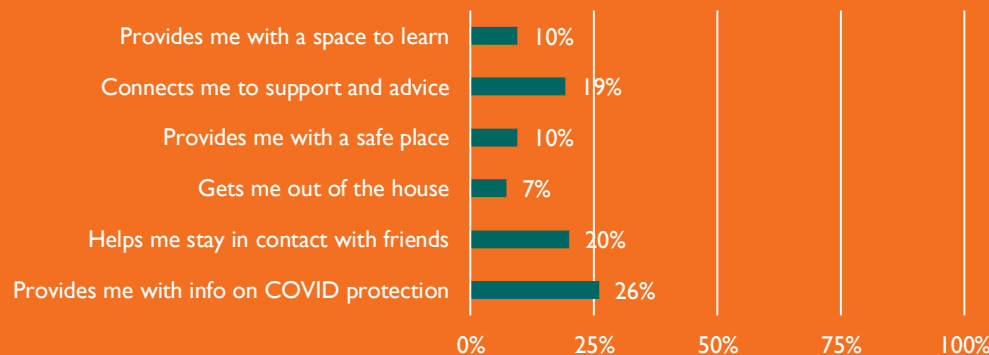
- More than 90% of girls reported feeling some degree of stress or depression from being confined to their homes during lockdown.
- More than half of the girls reported feeling less safe than they did before the pandemic.
- The girls and their families experienced restricted access to health services and reduced capacity of service offerings, including SRHR and GBV supports,

Impact of COVID-19...

How has COVID-19 made you feel?



How have AGPGs helped you through COVID-19?



Recommendations



Adopt a comprehensive and holistic approach to girls' empowerment. To effect change at a systemic level, facilitators recommended that more formal linkages be established between AGPGs and relevant local government departments including policy and law makers working in the areas of women's rights, health, SRHR, education, nutrition, and economic empowerment. This might include targeted advocacy strategies aimed at decision makers at multiple levels of government.

Spread the successful AGPG model across the region. The AGPGs have been the impetus for significant social change in the families and communities where AGPGs are active.

Leverage the support of male peers by bringing boys on board as allies and co-collaborators. Boys can advocate for the rights of girls, including their right to choose a marriage partner, and to help persuade parents that sons and daughters should be treated equally.