



She Matters Too is the next step in CBM's campaign for gender equity, to educate, equip and empower girls and women who have the potential to be the greatest influencers for change in their families and communities.

To-date, 120 Canadian Baptist churches across the country have joined the campaign and over \$180,000 has been raised in one year.

One of the projects to benefit was the building of a girl's hostel in India for girls to receive education in safe surroundings. Today, 60 girls (age 6-13) from remote villages live at the hostel and attend school because of your generosity. Your letters to Prime Minister Harper encouraging the Canadian government to strengthen its support for the education of girls in the global community has also made a difference. This past spring Canada announced a \$120 million commitment to the Global Partnership for Education.

Funds and awareness raised in this year's campaign will support important initiatives such as:

- Small business grants and loans, business training, health care, and emotional & spiritual support for HIV-positive women
- Skills training, small business creation, and savings and credit opportunities through self-help groups among refugee women in Kenya
- Support for other CBM programs which seek to educate, equip, and empower some of the world's most marginalized women.

In the event that this project is oversubscribed or where local conditions prevent implementation, CBM will direct your donation to where it is most needed.

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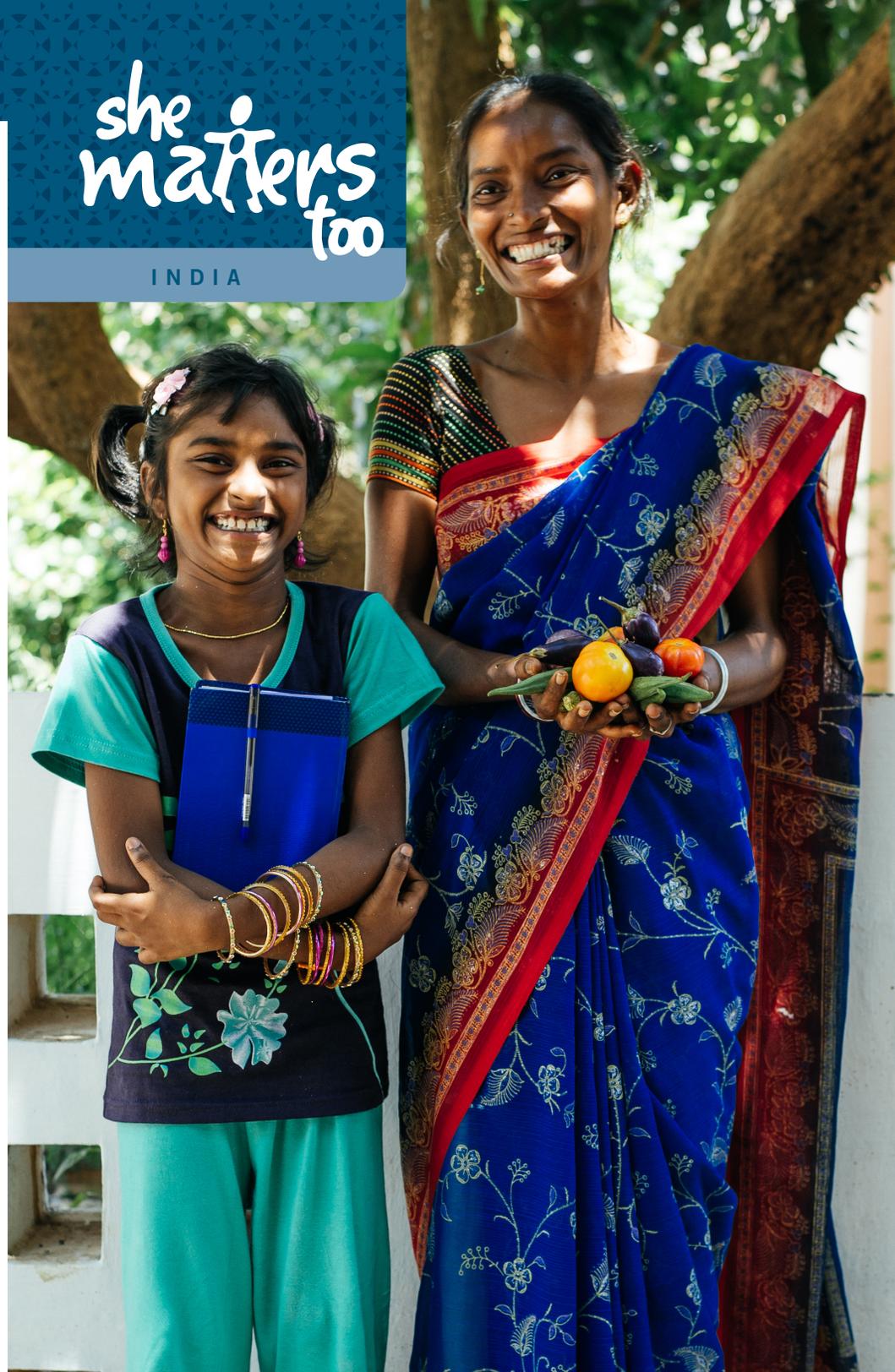
cbmin.org

Canadian Baptist Ministries 7185 Millcreek Drive · Mississauga · Ontario · L5N 5R4

TEL: +1.905.821.3533 FAX: +1.905.826.3441 f cbmin.org t canadianbaptist



INDIA





"Educate a woman and you are educating an entire village" - African proverb

Mary, pictured with her daughter who is enrolled in an educational program funded through She Matters by Canadian Baptists.



Mary's vegetable business is now earning income for her daughter's future education.

My name is Mary.

I have a 10 year old daughter and people think she is my sister because I'm only 23. I was married when I was just 12. Two years later, I found out I was HIV-positive. When I discovered my husband had hidden from me that he had HIV, I left him and returned home to my parents. Because I followed the doctor's instruction not to breastfeed my daughter, she is healthy, for which I am so grateful. I joined a Guardians of Hope (GOH) group and was encouraged to meet, talk and pray with others in the same situation as me. They have helped me obtain medicine and my health has slowly improved.

I received a grant of 4,000 rupees to start a small business of selling vegetables and mango jelly at the market. I am happy to be able to earn an income and live on my own without depending on my parents. I have been putting a small amount in the bank for my daughter's education. I feel like life is just beginning for us. I want my daughter to get an education and be able to realize her dreams. She will have a good job and not be forced to marry young like I did.

We know Mary and others like her matter to you!

Unfortunately Mary's story is not uncommon in some rural villages in India, where girls are often deprived of education and forced to marry young. An uneducated woman is vulnerable to abuse and exploitation. She can feel isolated and lack knowledge of health and nutrition that could greatly improve and extend the life of her family. And yet, in most communities, women are the most important person in breaking the cycle of poverty.

For many women, receiving a small grant or loan to start a small business means they have the ability to provide a better future for themselves and their families.

Today you have the opportunity to say YES! She Matters Too! Give women with few opportunities, a gift that enables them to start a business and receive skills training. It'll improve her circumstances and transform her life. It's an investment in her whole family.

Learn more at shematters.cbmin.org