

# Rajasthan Nutrition Project (RNP)

## Improving Gender-Equitable Household Nutrition

RNP built on the existing women's self-help group (SHG) movement in India to improve the health and nutrition of women and children and to build household resilience, especially among vulnerable, tribal communities in rural Rajasthan



### Linkages to Nutrition and Health Services

- > Community linkages created with Integrated Child Development Scheme (ICDS) centers, health centers, agriculture NGOs and cooperatives
- > Enhanced interface and increasing accountability between communities and local services



### Savings and Income Generation

- > Target group consisted of voluntary SHGs of 10 to 20 women who meet periodically to collect savings and provide small loans to their members
- > Most members are marginalized tribal populations who own little or no land, have low literacy and lack access to formal finance



### Gender Dialogues

- > Dialogue and questions about gender incorporated into BCC materials
- > Men engaged in topics including traditional gender roles as barriers to more effective decision-making to support food and nutritional security for households



### Community Nutrition Advocates & Nutrition Education

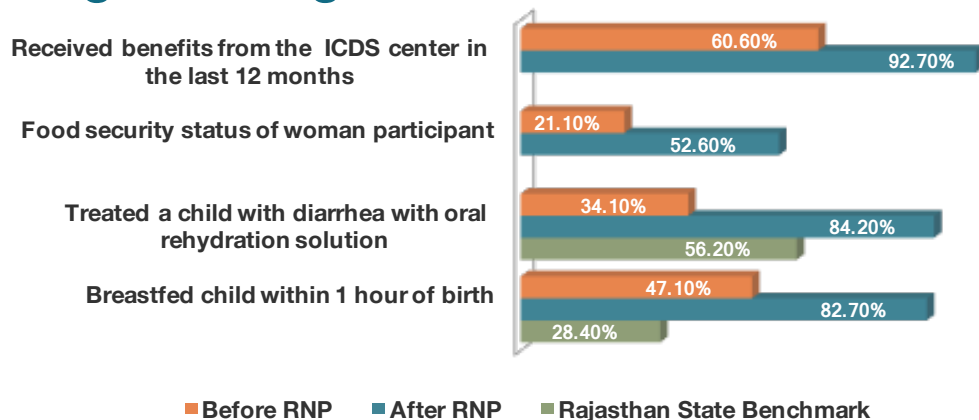
- > 1,280 community volunteers or Community Nutrition Advocates (CNAs) were trained to deliver Behavior Change Communication (BCC) to SHG members
- > 8,131 SHG members received messaging on the following topics: Basic Nutrition and Hygiene; Infant/Young Child Nutrition; Maternal and Adolescent Health; Health Services Linkages; Financial Literacy



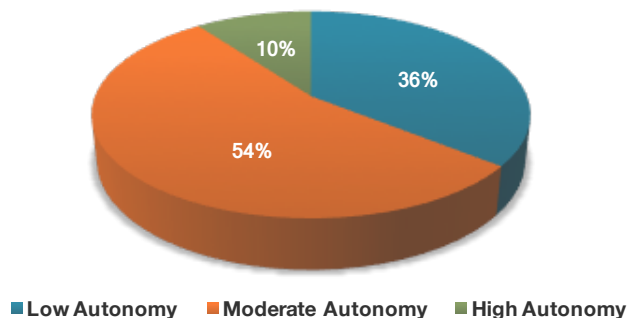
### Agricultural Extension Support

- > Technical assistance and training provided to SHG members and their families encouraging nutrition-sensitive agriculture
- > Promotion of locally-grown, drought-tolerant nutritious foods

## Program Targets

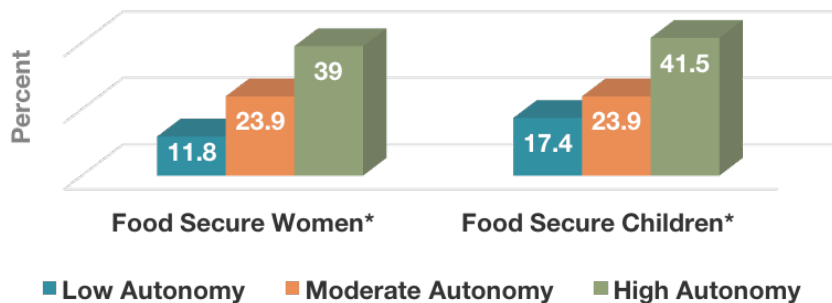


## Low Levels of Women's Autonomy++



++Autonomy index based on 16 indicators measured at baseline assessing decision-making power, assets, mobility

## Significant association between Women's Autonomy and Food Security of Respondent and Children



## Additional Research Results

	Before RNP	After RNP
Both husband and wife made decision on food purchases*	24.8%	48.7%
Both husband and wife made decision on how much food to serve family members*	11.7%	18.8%
Husband made decision on how much food to serve family members*	30.8%	3.2%
Have a kitchen garden	—	68%
Said the number of vegetables grown in kitchen garden have increased in last year	—	92%
Raise livestock	—	92%
Set aside savings for future food expenses in past 6 months*	61.8%	80.4%

\*Statistically significant at  $p < 0.05$

For more information on the Rajasthan Nutrition Program, please see: <http://www.grameenfoundation.org/publications>