CHRONIC MALNUTRITION: A GLOBAL HEALTH ISSUE

1 IN 5 CHILDREN UNDER 5 ARE CHRONICALLY MALNOURISHED

WHAT DOES IT MEAN FOR THEIR HEALTH?

- Weaker immune system
- Higher risk of dying from infectious diseases
- Increased risk of obesity and non-communicable diseases such as diabetes in adulthood
- Increased healthcare cost due to illness throughout their lifetime

Girls who were chronically malnourished in early childhood are more likely to:

- Have a smaller pelvis in and face complications during childbirth
- Give birth to a baby with a low weight and size, who is at risk of repeating the cycle

WHAT IS THE GLOBAL HEALTH BURDEN?

- Malnutrition is the underlying cause of over 3 million under-5 child deaths each year
- Maternal malnutrition during pregnancy contributes to 800,000 neonatal deaths each year
- Severely stunted children due to chronic malnutrition are 5 times more likely to die before 5 years old
- Due to obesity or associated illnesses such as diabetes and strokes 2.8 million people die each year

WHAT ELSE? MICRONUTRIENT DEFICIENCIES ARE AN UNDERLYING CAUSE OF CHRONIC MALNUTRITION. TODAY, 2 BILLION PEOPLE SUFFER FROM IT.

- **ZINC DEFICIENCY**
  - Weakens the immune system and increases deaths related to diarrhea, the 3rd leading cause of child deaths
- **IRON DEFICIENCY**
  - Leads to anemia, which increases maternal and child mortality
- **VITAMIN A DEFICIENCY**
  - Can lead to irreversible blindness
- **IODINE DEFICIENCY**
  - In early childhood is linked with lower mental development

HEALTHY NUTRITION OF MOTHER AND CHILD IS KEY TO A HEALTHY POPULATION.