

## UDYAN – Overview

Cochin Milan is the only all-women Rotary club in Cochin, Kerala. Chartered in 2013, the club focuses on projects to assist vulnerable demographics in our community, particularly women and children.

Udyan is a project of Cochin Milan to address the needs of a low-income community at Mulavakkad in Ernakulam, Kerala. We have worked with this community for 7 years. It is a predominantly fishing community. The club has trust and goodwill with community leaders and we can tap into that goodwill to execute this project successfully.

Our Global Grant project UDYAN (GG 2099278) will build 50 toilets for the most needy of this community. The GG is approved by the Rotary Foundation. Below is an overview of the project.

To address the challenges of the community, the club has divided its objectives into 3 categories. Water & Sanitation, Health & Wellness, Maternal & Child Health. Of these, it is the Water & Sanitation component that is in the scope of this Global Grant application. At the moment, the intended beneficiaries do not have toilets. The problem is worsened by the lack of proper sewage or septic tank facilities. There is a lot of open defecation, which is harder on women from a privacy point of view. These issues create an unsanitary set of conditions especially during the monsoon, leading to health issues for the community.

50 households will get direct benefit from this project, whereby they will not only get toilets but virtue of the septic tank associated with a toilet, the whole area improves its sanitation situation. This in turn benefits the whole community by prevention of faeces leeching into nearby water bodies that are critical for the wellbeing of the community. Additionally, at the moment, the lack of toilet facilities for these 50 households create an overflow of faecal matter into their neighbours' property. We have calculated that provision of these 50 toilets will indirectly benefit 200 households in the area. The toilets the club provides will incorporate the existing water sources at each house. Currently, the intended recipients use water from borewells or wells.

The club has worked from the beginning of the Rotary year to collect, assess and formulate a plan to execute this project in an effective manner for intended beneficiaries. The budget requirement for the provision of the 50 toilets is US\$50,000.

Attaching pictures of some makeshift toilets in the village.

