ClimateCare Champions: Mobilizing Community Health Workers for Climate-Ready Communities

**Background:**

- Climate change is the greatest health challenge of the 21st century, threatening elements essential for human survival including air, food, water, shelter, and security.

- It also directly affects our health by increasing incidence and prevalence of infectious diseases, respiratory diseases, and chronic diseases.

- Swasti envisions a world where all people, especially the most vulnerable, overcome individual and structural barriers to realize their potential to enjoy everyday wellbeing.

- Community Health Workers (CHWs) play a critical role in bridging health systems and communities. Oftentimes, they are women who are part of the communities themselves, providing intimate access to households in conservative societies and addressing the neglected needs of women and other genders.

**Action:**

- Urgent action is needed to address these ongoing and impending threats to the health and wellbeing of vulnerable communities including the urban and rural poor, women and children, elderly and migrant workers across Asia.

- To meet these needs, Swasti and the Global Consortium on Climate and Health Education (GCCHE), Columbia University, have partnered
to develop evidence-based training for front-line community health workers.

- The vision of the Global Consortium on Climate and Health Education is that all health professionals throughout the world be trained to prevent, mitigate, and respond to the health impacts of climate change.

**Outcome:**

The ClimateCare Champions program will address the critical gap in knowledge and preparedness among Swasti’s network of community health workers.

**The key goals are to:**

1. Increase Community Health Workers’ **knowledge and efficacy related to the climate crisis** so they may screen, detect, refer and prevent adverse climatic effects on the health and wellbeing of the vulnerable communities they serve.

2. Build and strengthen the **communication and advocacy skills of the community health workforce** through training in risk and strategic communication materials so that they can serve as trusted messengers within their communities.

To this end, we are creating an online platform to curate **globally benchmarked climate-related risk communication products by public health experts for priority geographies**. This will be accessible free of cost. We will also develop fresh, customized RCCE products on demand to improve the utility for specific marginalized geographies and groups, and contribute to the resources in this field. The content will be available in multiple languages and formats.

**CORE VALUES**

| ➢ Globally benchmarked research published in top journals | ➢ Contextualized curriculum and delivery for local communities | ➢ Focus on major health impacts from climate: heat-related, vector-borne & waterborne diseases, mental health, ... |
| ➢ Flexible, hybrid modes of delivery: in-person and digital | ➢ Iterative approach built in through learner feedback | ➢ Prioritizing new and expecting mothers and infants, outdoor and factory workers |

**CORE GEOGRAPHIES**

[Map showing countries like Bangladesh, India, Cambodia, and Philippines]