

Theme of the newsletter :

## World Tuberculosis Day, March 24

Each year, we commemorate World Tuberculosis (TB) Day on March 24 to raise public awareness about the devastating health, social and economic consequences of TB, and to step up efforts to end the global TB epidemic. The date marks the day in 1882 when Dr Robert Koch announced that he had discovered the bacterium that causes TB, which opened the way towards diagnosis and treatment of TB. KHPT turned World TB Day into World TB Week where THALI community health workers came together with health officials and healthcare providers across Karnataka to pledge to End TB.

## PROJECT UPDATES



**Theme: Adolescent Girls**

### STRIVE Project

#### STRIVE National Dissemination Workshop

STRIVE conducted a day long National Dissemination Workshop in collaboration with the International Center for Research on Women (ICRW) - Asia Regional Office and KHPT to discuss findings from programs implemented under the STRIVE research consortium. Presentations and discussions revolved around the learnings from seven years of research and synthesis of evidence from varied program approaches, and their implications to future initiatives, nationally and globally.



From left to right, Dr Bilali Camara, Country Director, UNAIDS, Mohan HL, Managing Trustee, KHPT, Annie Holmes, Director of Research Uptake, STRIVE, LSHTM, Dr Ravi Verma, Regional Director, ICRW Asia

Policy makers from the government, program specialists, civil society advocates, journalists and researchers came together for two insightful panel discussions.

Nupur Barua, Head, South-Asia Research Hub, DFID chaired the first panel on Structural interventions with adolescents and young women and Dr. Shobini Rajan, from NACO, chaired the second panel on Addressing structural drivers within combination HIV prevention programme.

Dignitaries like Bilali Camara, Country Director, UNAIDS, Annie Holmes, Director of Research Uptake, STRIVE, Dr Sheetal Rahi, Assistant Commissioner, Adolescent Health, Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, Biraj Swain, senior international development expert, Madhu Deshmukh, Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of CARE India, Shalini Bharat Director, TISS, Mumbai, Ms. Akhila Sivasdas, Managing Trustee, CFAR were among the dignitaries present at the event.



From left to right, Dr. Shalini Bharat, Director and Professor, TISS, Akhila Sivasdas, Centre for Advocacy and Research, New Delhi, Dr. Shobini Rajan NACO, Sanghmitra Iyengar, Founding Trustee, Samraksha, Bangalore, Sonal Mehta, Chief Executive, HIV/AIDS Alliance



Samata presentation by Dr. Ravi Prakash, Chair: Dr. Nupur Barua, Head, South-Asia Research Hub, DFID

### Sphoorthi Project

#### Sphoorthi girls interacted with the Commissioner

The Regional Commissioner, Kalburgi division, Karnataka during his official meeting to Koppal interacted with 19 Sphoorthi girls and other project staff to hear the experiences of how the girls have benefited from the programme, their aspirations and their involvement in their villages to represent the voices of their peers. The girls confidently answered the questions asked by the Regional Commissioner. The RC provided positive feedback about his interaction and expressed his interest to support such programmes in future, in the region.

#### Capacity building for cluster level adolescent leaders

Meetings were organised for three cluster level adolescent girl representatives selected from 51 project intervention villages to orient them and build their capacities to address adolescent problems in their village. These efforts are to establish and institutionalise adolescent girl committees to support scale up efforts.



Cluster level meeting

#### Supporting girls to excel in academics

Tuition classes were organised for about 600 girls who will appear for SSLC exam this year. The classes are aimed at offering the girls academic support and build their confidence prior to the exams. Additionally, relevant videos and model question papers were downloaded and circulated among the girls to increase their understanding about difficult content.



Tuition classes provided by community workers to adolescent girls



## Theme: Nutrition

### Project: Promoting and Strengthening Edible Oil and Milk Fortification in India

#### Mainstreaming food fortification in government safety net programs

With support from the Food Safety wing of the Government, inter-departmental 'round table meetings to scale up and mainstream food fortification' were successfully conducted in Uttar Pradesh and Bihar. The meeting was chaired by Additional Chief Secretary, Dr Anita Bhatnagar Jain IAS in Uttar Pradesh and Development Commissioner, Dr Subhash Sharma IAS in Bihar and attended by the senior officials of Department of Food Safety/Health, Department of Education (MDM program), Department of Social Welfare (ICDS program), Food and Civil Supplies department (PDS), State dairy cooperatives etc. These meetings were also attended by representatives from FFRC-FSSAI and GAIN.



Additional Chief Secretary (ACS), Dr. Anita Bhatnagar Jain IAS, Uttar Pradesh lighting lamp at round-table meeting



## Theme: Tuberculosis

### Project: Tuberculosis Health Action Learning Initiative (THALI)

#### States issue orders in support of the Differentiated Care Model

The State Tuberculosis Officers (STOs) of Karnataka, Telangana and Andhra Pradesh (AP) in February issued orders to District Tuberculosis Officers across the three states to support the rollout of the Differentiated Care Model (DCM) in THALI intervention areas. The STOs said that the DCM could add value to current TB control efforts and result in positive treatment outcomes among high-priority patients. THALI will provide training on the Risk and Needs Assessment (RANA) process to their respective districts' RNTCP staff during their monthly meetings.

#### THALI innovations appreciated at World TB Day 2019

THALI's innovative approaches to patient-centred care were recognized and appreciated at a state event in Bengaluru on March 24, World TB Day. Dignitaries at the occasion released technical briefs on the TB Careline, a phone-based patient counselling service; the Sputum Collection and Transportation



State health officials release THALI innovation briefs at World TB Day event in Bengaluru system, which streamlines sample collection and testing, facilitating early treatment initiation; and the Differentiated Care Model, a personalized approach to TB care and support based on a risk assessment of patients.

## USAID visit to THALI project sites in the northern districts of Karnataka

Mr Xerses Sidhwa, Dr Amar Shah and Kachina Chawla from USAID visited THALI expansion districts in the north Karnataka districts of Bagalkot, Vijayapura, Bellary and Koppal from February 15-16. The team reviewed the implementation of THALI project innovations and activities including Health Information Centres, the DCM and Patient Support Groups, and met with public health officials in each district to understand the specific needs for a TB-HIV intervention in the region. They recommended that THALI develop innovation models in a few areas, which can be scaled up at the state and national level.



## Theme: Non-Communicable Diseases

### Project: Strengthening Continuum of Care of NCDs through an integrated urban health systems model in Mysore, Karnataka

#### Health camps

Wellness volunteers organised two health camps in Kumbarakoppalu urban PHC area, Mysuru and mobilized over 300 beneficiaries to screen for diabetes & hypertension. Additionally, the beneficiaries were provided with relevant health education on diabetes and hypertension during the camps.



Health camp, Kumbarakoppalu urban PHC area, Mysuru



## Theme: HIV/AIDS

### Project: Vihaan

#### Champion in me

Competitive events organised to discover the 'Champion in Me' through arts and sports activities among Children Affected by AIDS (CABA) in all the districts of Karnataka. Treatment adherence and other issues related to ART were focused in the sessions. 859 CABA participated in the event with support from MACAIDS and local donor. District level and state level programs conducted, where, 60 children participated in state and 4 bagged prizes at state level.



Glimpses of activities at Champion in me event



## IHAT Karnataka TSU

### "Life is not about finding yourself. Life is about creating yourself." Ms. Bharathi, a Transgender

"It is one of the most perplexing moments when you are confused about your own sexual identity," shares Ms Bharathi. Samatha TI, Chamrajanagar supported me in this phase and also helped me obtain the loan from the Self - development scheme under "Rehabilitation for sexual minorities". Now, I am accepted by my brother's family and am in a position to support them financially.



Ms. Bharathi, a transgender

**UPTSU team learns the power of storytelling**

A 70 member team of UPTSU (2 batches) attended a one-day workshop 'How to tell the story of your work' on March 12 and 13th. The workshop covered the 'Why, What and How' of Business Storytelling through a pedagogy that was a mix of concepts, real time skill building and experiential learning.



*Workshop on power of storytelling*

They learnt the skills of creative storytelling for documenting and showcasing effectively the impact of the programs that they are engaged in.

"It was different from our routine work and helped me professionally but also added to my overall personal development. I think it was a stepping stone for UPTSU-IHAT in capacity building of its employees. I appreciate the efforts and am looking forward to more such innovative workshops in future." Charu Yadav, Specialist- M&E

**Dakshata program**

Every life matters: Public health professionals of UP committed to saving mothers and new-borns.

Under the Dakshata program, the UPTSU is building the capacities of the primary health care providers on providing quality intra and immediate postpartum care in 31 districts of UP, through regular intensive mentoring and trainings.

Since April 2016, 235 specialists (gynaecologists, paediatricians, MD medicine, medical officers, quality improvement mentors, staff nurses) have been trained as Master Trainers at the state level who, in turn have trained 2358 services providers (staff nurses, medical officers and auxiliary nurse midwives) working in 124 district and block hospitals of UP.



*A staff nurse learning to revive a newborn using Ambu bag on neo-natalie*

According to Dr M.K Verma (Master trainer for Dakshata), DGO, CHC Rath, Hamirpur, "Having received the Dakshata training at the state level and imparting the same training to district and block level service providers, I feel very confident about managing any maternal and newborn complications, now."

The same sentiment has been expressed by staff nurse Anita Srivastava, CHC Lalgang, Pratapgarh, "After receiving Dakshata training, I feel more confident in managing complications and pre-referral management in the district has substantially improved."

## HR AND EMPLOYEE CORNER

**Employee engagement initiatives**

- International Women's Day celebrated on 8<sup>th</sup> March 2019 across KHPT/ IHAT offices to mark the significance of gender equality in the organisation.
- Holi, the festival of colours was celebrated across the organisation to bring people together and strengthen the bond across all levels of staff and create a friendly work environment.



*Women day celebration, 8th March*

**Employee capacity building**

- 11 staff from both IHAT & KHPT participated in various training programs/workshops to enhance their leadership qualities, job skills and career progression.
- In-house ToT was organised on 'Hands on training on Prevention of Workplace Sexual Harassment at workplace' for a group of 25 staff in Bangalore. Brochures on IHAT and KHPT's internal committees against workplace harassment developed in English, Hindi and Kannada for staff sensitization programme and distribution.

**New joinees**

Around 45 new staff have joined the KHPT family during this quarter in different capacities to support various projects.



## PUBLICATIONS

**NCD**

**Technical briefs**

- Operationalising Electronic Health Records to capture beneficiary data at urban primary health centre within NCD programs in Mysuru, Karnataka
- Adopting a Tech-based Interactive Voice Response System to build awareness and positive behaviours among communities within Non-Communicable Disease (NCD) Programs in Karnataka

**Report**

- Non-Communicable Diseases in Urban Mysore, Karnataka: A situational assessment report

**THALI**

- Differentiated care model Standard operating procedures - A personalized approach to prevention, care and support for TB Patients

**ICMR**

- Estimating the Burden of Pediatric HIV in a "A" Category District in India: Cohort Study of Children (0-14 years) exposed to maternal HIV (Phase II)