





Since the COVID-19 pandemic hit the country, KHPT has been working actively to support COVID-19 response and relief efforts on the ground. KHPT's strong grassroots connect and technical expertise helped facilitate a response which brought together its frontline staff, their extensive networks in the community and

support from donors and partners to mobilize resources and support for vulnerable communities, including humanitarian aid, outreach and counselling services, and awareness through communication material development. In the April-June period, KHPT was able to provide a total of:

<p>4606 cooked meals provided</p> 	<p>36451 masks distributed</p> 	<p>34195 grocery kits distributed</p> 	<p>4497 sanitary pad packets mobilised and distributed</p> 
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In addition to these initiatives, KHPT has been working with the Government of Karnataka since April, leveraging its strengths in communication material development, documentation and data entry and analysis to support the state's efforts to contain COVID-19 on an ongoing basis.

KHPT mobilized around INR 1 crore from different donors, partners and community networks for its COVID response. We hope that you all stay safe and positive during such difficult times and fight against stigmatising COVID-19 patients!

KHPT felicitates community COVID warriors in Bengaluru

When THALI began working with community structures in 2019, it was through consistent engagement that they realized the potential of these rich networks, which could be tapped to provide and assist healthcare services and staff. KHPT felicitated 21 CS members who had supported COVID-19 relief efforts through their exemplary efforts towards providing food, provision kits, and masks, counselling community members, and referrals to COVID hospitals. They were

given a certificate and a memento recognizing them as Community COVID Warriors. Mr Mohan HL, CEO, and Mr Ashokanand, IAS (Retired), Senior Technical Advisor- Advocacy, KHPT, addressed the participants and urged them to stay safe as they extend support to TB control activities of THALI.



KHPT CEO Mohan HL felicitates a community structure member

KHPT introduces Breaking the Barriers project to national and state government officials

KHPT and USAID held a virtual project briefing on the Breaking the Barriers project with officials of the Central TB Division on June 15. The meeting was chaired by Dr Nishant Kumar, DADG, CTD, and was attended by Dr Reuben Swamickan, Division Chief, Tuberculosis & Infectious Diseases, USAID, Ms Amrita Goswami, Project Management Specialist, USAID, CTD officials, and KHPT representatives. Dr Kumar agreed to all the interventions under the initiative and said the CTD would support the project. He also suggested expediting the "build" phase of the project and supporting the respective District TB Officers in community engagement activities, patient-centric approaches, and providing technical assistance in vulnerability mapping. KHPT also held a briefing for Karnataka State and district NTEP officials on June 10.

The meeting was attended by Dr Rameshchandra Reddy, State Tuberculosis Officer, District TB Officers from Bengaluru Urban, Koppal, Bellari, Belgavi and Bagalkote, and WHO Consultants to the NTEP. The KHPT team briefed them on the project geography, strategies, activities. Dr Reddy emphasized the importance of community engagement in TB elimination and expressed his team's support for the project.



The team from KHPT holds a briefing with State TB Officer, Dr. Reddy and Dr. Sujatha, Deputy Director, TB

THALI abstracts accepted for presentation at the Union World Lung Health Conference

Three abstracts submitted by the THALI research team were accepted for presentation at the 51st Union World Lung Health Conference 2020, which will be held virtually from October 20-24. An abstract titled 'Community health workers augment the cascade of TB detection to care in urban slums of two metro cities in

India' was accepted for oral presentation. The two other abstracts, which were accepted for poster presentations, are entitled 'Does exposure to TB meetings, either small or large group, improve the knowledge and health-seeking behavior for early TB diagnosis? Experience from Bengaluru and Hyderabad' and 'Community engagement activities reduce patient delays in TB diagnosis and treatment initiation in Bengaluru and Hyderabad cities, South India'.

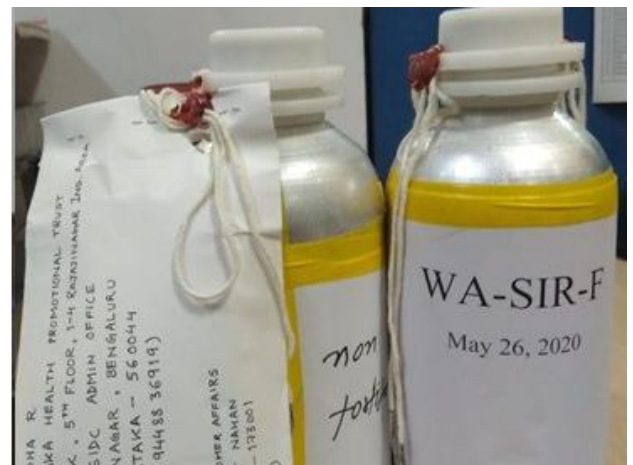
KHPT initiatives highlighted in the TB India Report 2020

KHPT's innovative approaches and contributions to state efforts towards TB elimination in India were featured in the India TB Report 2020 published by the Central TB Division (CTD). Our communication support to the CTD, counselling training initiatives, differentiated care

model for prioritized patient care, engagement with community structures and establishment of Patient Support Groups under the THALI project received a mention in the sections highlighting government partnerships and state success stories. KHPT's contribution to private sector notification under the JEET project was also highlighted. The report is available at <https://bit.ly/3ejZc38>

KHPT supports the staple food fortification initiative in Himachal Pradesh

KHPT has been consistently working to ensure the quality of the fortified food products in social safety net programs and retail market. One such initiative was to extend support to the Department of Food, Civil Supplies and Consumer Affairs, Himachal Pradesh, to assure the quality of the fortified flour distributed through the public distribution system across the state. Despite prevailing restrictions and challenges due to the COVID-19 situation, KHPT was successful in developing a mechanism with support from the state government to ensure that the quality assurance process continues without hindrance.



Sample of fortified Wheat



Community Health Worker interacts with a beneficiary in Gouripur village, Koppal

Gouripur, Koppal- A model village in upholding the practice of KMC

Gouripur village is located in Kanakagiri taluk of Koppal district. The villagers heard about KMC for the first time in 2017 when they saw Ms. Laxamma (name changed) and her family members provide KMC to her baby weighing just 1780 grams. The practice became local news in Gouripur and they started visiting the baby, curious to know more about KMC. The baby gained 720 g in about 15 days after receiving prolonged KMC. By observing this case closely, the villagers learnt that KMC can save money on medical expenses and improve the baby's condition, potentially saving its life. They began to pay special attention to the low birth weight babies born in their own families.

As of May 2020, a total of 13 LBW babies born in the village have received KMC from their family members!

Adolescent leaders bring the needs of peers to the forefront

As the COVID-19 pandemic hit the country, the government ensured a supply of all essential commodities, but nobody realised that sanitary napkins are essential as well. Suma, a Class 9 student from Hosakanapur village in Koppal, took a small yet significant step to resolve this issue. From writing letters to making videos and contacting the relevant authorities, Suma persisted until her message caught the attention of the media and the Koppal Deputy Commissioner (DC).

Mukunda Sumi Special Steel Ltd., a factory near Hosakanapur, procured and supplied 500 packets of sanitary napkins in the village. The DC passed an order directing the Health Department to ensure that each girl receives Shuchi sanitary pads through ASHAs during the lockdown. Bharati Gudlanur, Koppal's "Padwoman", is to be funded with INR 1 lakh by the government to run her pad manufacturing unit. The DC also identified one village in each block to procure pads in case of deficit

Adolescent girls advocate to start NREGA work in four villages

The Sphoorthi adolescent girls advocated starting NREGA work in four villages to prevent the loss of livelihood for poor families struggling because of the COVID-19 scenario. Role model and peer girls from

Community organizers and adolescent girls serve the needy during the COVID situation

The fallout from the spread of COVID-19 has left many families unemployed. Community Organizers (COs) under KHPT's Sphoorthi Project, with the help of the adolescent girls, identified vulnerable families in KHPT intervention villages. They ensured that the ration sponsored by the Azim Premji Foundation, KHPT,

and supply it through ASHAs in other villages, and invested INR 1 lakh to procure sanitary napkins and ensure that there is no shortage of sanitary napkins to the girls in rural areas.

Mrs Shashikala, Women and Child Minister, Karnataka also spoke to Suma over a phone call during a live interview with a Kannada news channel, and congratulated her for bringing the issues of adolescent girls to the attention of the government. Suma was also felicitated for her efforts by a Member of Parliament, Mr Karadi Sangana.



Adolescent girls distributing sanitary napkins in community

different villages filled NREGA forms and visited the Panchayat Development Office to help guarantee livelihoods for vulnerable families under NREGA, also known as the Udyog Khatri Yojna in Karnataka. The girls helped 130 poor families get work for 7 days, earning about Rs 1,925 per family.

and other donors reached the most vulnerable families, facilitating the distribution of rations to 336 families in 51 villages of Koppal district.

In addition, COs Madhu, Kavita and Savitri helped facilitate an amount between INR 1,000-2,000 from the Panchayat office to cover medicines and other essentials for six families from three villages who couldn't earn due to health problems.



Testing and counseling camp, State Home, Mysuru

KHPT and District NCD cell conduct a testing and counselling camp in Mysuru

A testing and counselling camp was conducted at the State Home run by the Department of Women and Child Welfare (DWCD), Government of Karnataka, in collaboration with the District NCD cell. This camp was staying in the State Home during the COVID-19 situation. 70 inmates aged between 50-70 years who were suffering from Diabetes/Hypertension were tested for blood sugar and blood pressure. The District NCD cell provided all the logistics and safety gear to the health workers, while KHPT supported testing and counselling.

KHPT staff in Mysuru and Chincholi get virtual training on COVID-19

The KHPT project staff provided virtual training to the field staff in Mysore and Chincholi on COVID-19, PPEs, precautions and adherence measures to be followed by people with diabetes and hypertension. The training was provided to counsellors, lab technicians and project officers for capacity building on current



CHW supervisor handing out medicines to Roopa in Mysuru

treatment protocols, disease occurrence, transmission, prevention and care among patients, maintaining mental health during the pandemic, etc. Information on COVID-19, support in getting medicines, lab tests and essential needs, helpline numbers, etc. were then shared with patients and their families. A professional counsellor from KHPT counselled 17 patients with complication and co-morbidity.

KHPT project staff reach out to needy communities during the lockdown in Mysuru

Roopa living in Mysuru, has diabetes and hypertension, and contracted a UTI. The CHW-Supervisor immediately contacted her husband, who works in a government district hospital. An ambulance was arranged to take Roopa to the district hospital immediately. There were no specialists in the facility that day, and she was shifted to a private nursing home. The CHW Supervisor and her husband contributed INR 10000 and helped Roopa get the treatment. Roopa is thankful to the CHW supervisor, her husband, and the staff for her recovery.

Youth respond to the COVID-19 situation through a peer-led approach in supporting the PLHIVs

Although the hospitals and ART centres have been open, young People Living with HIV (PLHIVs) are facing challenges to get transportation facilities to reach the ART centres for their medicines. In this situation, the PLHIV youth leaders under the MAC AIDS project of KHPT implemented in northeastern districts of Karnataka took a lead through a peer-led approach with the help of experienced mentors. Once in two months, 'Learning Exchange Platforms- Support Group' were organized at the site offices to help the youth meet each other, share experiences and learn through socializing.

The youth leaders in the support group helped the participants during the COVID-19 lockdown situation by providing:

- Adherence counselling
- Home delivery services of ART medicines
- Advocacy with local donors for facilities required by the PLHIVs



Youth PLHIV leaders

HIV



Guru Oji visiting Basavaraj

Outreach worker facilitates ration for beneficiaries

Mr Basavaraj Vaddar, 45 years old from Halageri Village Badami Taluk, Bagalkot District, is a TB-HIV co-infected, bedridden patient. When the CSC Outreach Worker (ORW) visited his home to provide medicine, he noticed that Basavaraj's mother has been begging for food. The ORW coordinated with Rotary Club and mobilized ration supply for them for six months. Since then, one CSC ORW has been visiting Basavaraj every alternate day, and calling every day to monitor his health condition.

VIHAAN responds to COVID-19

KHPT, in coordination with the Karnataka State AIDS Prevention Society (KSAPS), has taken steps to respond to the COVID-19 situation to support the PLHIVs in the project area. Since many people were not aware of Novel Coronavirus, a simple PowerPoint presentation was developed with basic information about COVID-19 in the context of HIV and was shared with the CSC team for wider circulation. With the guidance of Dr Suresh Shastri, Joint Director, Care, Support and Treatment



Distributing food-kits in the community

(CST) Division, KSAPS, and Dr Ravikumar B N, Regional Coordinator, CST Division NACO, the KHPT team planned to reach out to the PLHIVs in the state with some defined tasks. Where feasible, delivery of drugs from Nodal ART Centre to Link ART Centre during the was systematised with the help of the Principal Secretary, Health and Family Welfare, Government of Karnataka, Project Director, KSAPS, and Police Commissioner of Bangalore. PLHIVs were also given green cards/ART books as IDs that would allow them to travel to the ART Centers.



ART medicines being home delivered by Community Coordinators

the staff corner

COVID-19 guidelines

Several initiatives have been undertaken by the organization to ensure the safety and protection of its staff working across levels in different regions of Karnataka in the current situation. A circular has been issued by the management in this regard which includes details of:

- Transportation facility to the staff using public transport for conveyance.
- Strict safety guidelines in office such as wearing of face masks compulsorily while in the workplace, frequent sanitizing and hand-washing, self-social distancing measures, etc.
- Prohibition of long-distance travel and large meetings/gatherings.
- KHPT Group Medical Insurance Policy covering COVID-19 treatment.

CEO felicitates KHPT COVID Warriors

KHPT identified and felicitated over 700 KHPT COVID warriors, who have been working selflessly in the fight against the COVID-19 pandemic by reaching out to the most vulnerable populations with humanitarian and medical aid and counselling support.

Mr Mohan HL, CEO, KHPT, interacted with the frontline health workers from across KHPT projects in 5 districts. Due to travel restrictions, virtual interactions were arranged where their efforts were appreciated. All KHPT COVID warriors were presented with certificates of recognition.



Mr Mohan, CEO, KHPT, interacts with front-line health workers over a video call

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