

KHPT has been supporting the Government of Karnataka in COVID-19 responses in the state. As a part of this, the following IEC materials developed by the Government of India were translated into Kannada:

### Illustrative guide on COVID Appropriate Behaviours

### Discrimination Guidelines Leaflet

These materials were printed and distributed to

- 198 BBMP wards in 8 Zones of Bengaluru
- 30 Zilla Panchayat across Karnataka

- 227 Taluk Panchayat office across Karnataka
- 6022 Gram Panchayats across Karnataka

An organizational COVID-19 toolkit has been developed that briefly summarises all of the organisation's efforts undertaken to ensure the safety and protection of staff working across levels in different regions of Karnataka. Some of those include:

- Compensation in case of any death due to COVID-19
- Prohibition of long-distance travel and large meetings/gatherings.
- KHPT Group Medical Insurance Policy covering COVID-19 treatment.
- Standard Operating Procedures (SOP) developed both in English/Kannada stating clear-cut guidelines for the staff to assess risks and take necessary steps to mitigate them
- Additional compensation support to KHPT's frontline workers
- Strict safety guidelines in the office such as wearing of face-masks compulsorily while in the workplace, frequent sanitizing and hand-washing, self-social distancing measures, sanitizing the office twice a month, etc.
- Transportation facility to the staff who are dependent on public transport for conveyance.

**KHPT also recently submitted a proposal to the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) to explore local strategies to promote community-centred response to COVID-19 in rural areas.**

KHPT's COVID-19 response

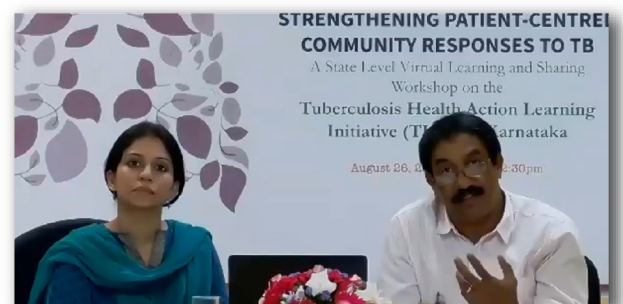
### KHPT organizes virtual learning and sharing workshop on THALI's experience in Karnataka

As the Tuberculosis Health Action Learning Initiative (THALI) draws to a close, KHPT conducted a state level virtual learning and sharing workshop entitled 'Strengthening Patient-centred Community Responses to TB' on August 26 to showcase THALI's successes in demonstrating innovative community engagement and patient care and support models for TB control. Representatives from the Government of Karnataka including Mr Javed Akhtar, Additional Chief Secretary, Department of Health & Family Welfare (DHFW); Mr Pankaj Kumar Pandey, Commissioner, DHFW; and Dr Arundhathi Chandrashekar, Mission Director, National Health Mission addressed the gathering on various aspects of TB control including the need for patient-centred care, partnerships and context-specific strategies for vulnerable populations including women.

### Speakers at the online webinar discuss migrant health

KHPT is organizing a series of webinars titled "Experts Talk about Vulnerable Populations – Health and TB" under the USAID-funded Breaking the Barriers project, in collaboration with the Central TB Division (CTD). The first webinar focused on risks and vulnerabilities of the migrant population, entitled "In- Between Home and Destination: Expert Conversations on Migrants, Health and TB", was held on September 8. Mr Mohan HL, CEO, KHPT set the context and Dr Sukriti Chauhan, Programme and Advocacy Lead, KHPT moderated the session. The speakers and panellists included Dr

Dr Sangita Patel, Director, Health Office, USAID India and Dr Reuben Swamickan, Chief, Infectious Diseases Division, USAID India acknowledged the efforts and initiatives taken by the THALI team to support the National Tuberculosis Elimination Program in its efforts to end TB by 2025. The workshop was live-streamed on YouTube and other social media platforms, and was attended by 170 participants. Watch more: [THALI's Journey towards Ending TB](#); [THALI virtual learning and sharing workshop on Tuberculosis](#)



Kuldeep Singh Sachdeva, Deputy Director-General, CTD; Ms Sangita Patel, Director, Health Office, USAID India; Dr Reuben Swamickan, Head, Infectious Diseases Division, USAID India; Professor R B Bhagat, Head, Department of Migration & Urban Studies at International Institute for Population Sciences; Ms Sahana Mishra, Integrator at Professional Assistance for Development Action (PRADAN), and Dr K Karthikeyan, Thematic Lead, Tuberculosis and Technical Specialist, Breaking the Barriers, KHPT. The webinar involved comprehensive discussions on the health seeking behaviour of migrants, as well as their unmet health needs, social and economic challenges, and existing support systems, schemes and services. [The webinar may be viewed here.](#)

Tuberculosis

## Abstract on food fortification selected for national conference

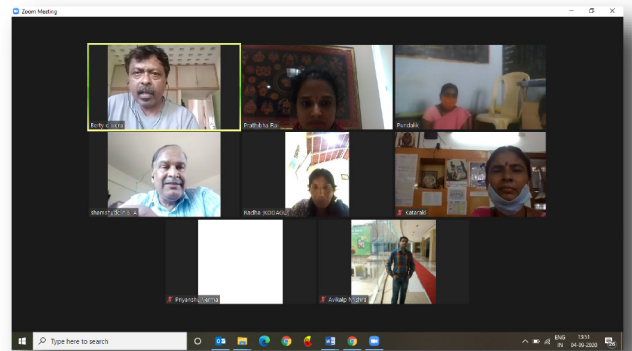
An abstract was selected for an oral presentation at the virtual conference, “Delivering for Nutrition in India: Insights from Implementation Research” held from 15-18 September. A 5-minute presentation was made virtually on the selected abstract *‘Novel framework to engage with government and other stakeholders: Experience of staple food fortification program implementation in 15 states of India’*. This was a part of the thematic session on ‘What we eat: How different aspects of food systems come together’, on 16 September.

## KHPT conducts sensitization of food safety officers in Uttar Pradesh

KHPT sensitized 541 food safety officers in Uttar Pradesh on September 24 through a virtual training program intended to help them understand their role in promoting food fortification among industries and the general population as well as regulating the industries as per FSSAI standards. The resource persons for the training were Ms Pooja Trivedi and Dr Jaya Tripathi from KHPT, and Ms Ruchi Sareen from GAIN.

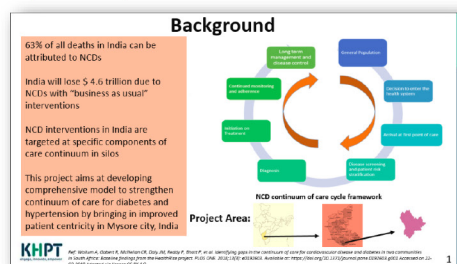
## MNCH team conducts virtual interactions and script writing workshops to prepare training module for frontline staff

KHPT’s MNCH team under the CARE India initiative is working to strengthen the capacity of frontline workers in Bihar. To help inform the training module, the MNCH team conducted interactions online with ASHAs, ANMs and block-level community mobilizers in July to understand the state’s socio-cultural context and the field-level challenges they face. The MNCH team organized a workshop from 3-14 September with 12 script writers to develop scripts for videos that will form part of the virtual training module. Thirty scripts were finalized for further development.



## Abstract selected for poster presentation

Health Systems Global is conducting the Sixth Global Symposium on Health Systems Research from 8-12 November. Dr Swaroop N, Thematic Lead, CPHC theme has been awarded the speaker scholarship for this year’s virtual symposium to present a poster on *“Harnessing technology to improve Non-Communicable Disease continuum of care at urban Primary Health Centres in Mysore city, South India”*.



## Presentation selected for webinar hosted by RICHPI

Dr Swaroop N, Thematic Lead, CPHC, presented on KHPT’s cutting-edge NCD care models in the webinar titled ‘Public Health Approach to Implementing NCD Model Interventions’ to RICHPI team and their wider affiliates and partners on 18 September. Apart from a very active team from RICHPI, senior leaders from renowned institutes such as Catholic Health Association of India (CHAI) and Constellation also participated among others and contributed to the rich discussions.

## Virtual call with Ramaiah International Centre for Public Health Innovations (RICHPI) team and partners on best practices in monitoring and evaluation

Dr Swaroop N, Thematic Lead, CPHC and Mr Arin Kar, Lead, Monitoring, Evaluation, Research & Learning (MERL) led a presentation on 3 September to an interested team of the RICHPI on basics and broader monitoring & evaluation strategies that CPHC team in particular and KHPT in general adopt for any given project.

## Dr Krishnamurthy participates in panel discussion at the 75th UN General Assembly

Dr Krishnamurthy Jayanna, Senior Technical Advisor, participated at the 75th United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) on social impactful models especially in NCD care as part of an esteemed panel titled ‘Revisiting Social Impact Models in the COVID-19 Era: Improving NCD Access through People-centred Care to Deliver on UHC’ on 23 September 2020 conducted virtually.

The panel discussed the lessons from the COVID-19 pandemic to inform access strategies and business models to improve NCD prevention, treatment and care; understand what social impact means in the context of NCD prevention and control, and how it can be achieved through people-centred approaches that meet social and financial objectives.

### Grant received from Wellspring Foundation

KHPT recently signed an agreement with the Wellspring Philanthropic Fund (WPF) for a project titled *“Addressing Gender-based violence among adolescent girls and young women through Life Skills Education: Evidence Generation of the Long-term Impacts from Rural and Marginalised Communities in South India”*. The key objectives of the study are to measure the level of Gender-based Violence (GBV) among adolescent girls and young women between 18-29 years in rural Karnataka by examining attitudes, experiences, and behaviours among the adolescent girls and young women in rural Karnataka concerning GBV.

### Film by adolescent girls selected under YuWaah Youth Challenge (UNICEF) (\*)

The culmination of the YuWaah Youth Challenge by UNICEF reached over 9,000,000 young people across the country. Out of over 1000+ projects in response to the call to action, KHPT's project of change; *“Livelihood for Migrants”* was highly appreciated by the jury. A virtual session was conducted on 28 August to celebrate the Champions of Change, and out of eight project teams from across the country, adolescent girls from KHPT's Adolescent Health team in Koppal were also invited as panellists. The video, made by the girls themselves, talks

### CSR grant received from Mangalore Chemical Fertilizer

KHPT has signed a MOU with Mangalore Chemical Fertilizer (MCF) for the implementation of a ‘Menstrual Hygiene Program’, to increase awareness of and access to menstrual hygiene products among adolescent girls

### Presentation selected for Interagency Gender Working group (IGWG) Plenary

KHPT was invited to present their work with adolescent girls in rural Koppal at the Interagency Gender Working group (IGWG) Plenary on **The Gendered Impact of COVID-19 on Caregivers and Community Health Workers**, on 19 August. Dr Satyanarayana, Thematic Lead, CPHC, and Dr. Maithreyi, Strategic Lead, CPHC presented on *“Empowered Rural Adolescent Girls and the COVID-19 Pandemic: Experiences from Rural India”*, and facilitated a discussion on the impact of the pandemic on adolescent girls in different contexts.

about how they took the initiative to help numerous migrant labourers get jobs under the government's MGNREGA scheme when they lost their employment during the COVID-19 lockdown. [Click here to watch](#)



and women in Koppal district of rural north Karnataka. As part of the project KHPT will be installing sanitary pad vending machines in five villages and undertaking menstrual hygiene education programme using a multi-stakeholder approach.

updating the ART centre. The main ART centre is 38 kilometres from Kampli and during the lockdown Ameena walked nearly 10 kilometres to reach certain patients for handing over medicines. During the period she distributed medicines to 226 PLHIVs.

Mr Mathew S K, Technical Officer, NACO and other state senior managers appreciated her efforts when Ameena shared her story in the meeting with the National VIHAAN team



### Outreach worker bridges distance between ART centre and PLHIV during lockdown

The Link ART centre in Kampli town of Bellary district has been closed recently and the patients are using Hospet ART centre.

Ameena, an Outreach Worker (ORW) of VIMUKTI CSC Hospet, received grievances from many People Living with HIV-AIDS (PLHIVs) on the non-availability of medicines due to the lockdown and their inability to travel. To address this, Ameena consulted the Hospet ART centre staff and requested to allow her to keep medicines at her home.

They have provided medicines as per the patients' requirements and Ameena established a medicine outlet at her house. She reached out to the priority patients and provided medicines at their doorsteps. Ameena has been maintaining a medicine stock register and regularly

## Youth Groups respond to the COVID-19 situation

The youth groups fostered under MAC AIDS grant, took bold steps to reach out the beneficiaries with all possible services during the lockdown. In this critical situation, the youth leaders took lead and through a peer-led approach, took voluntary initiatives such as:

- Adherence Counselling: The youth coordinators orientated youth leaders on treatment adherence and side effects, and the youth leaders then oriented 680 youths about the same. The leaders have also been counselling youths over the telephone every month.
- Home delivery: During counselling, the youth leaders found out that some youths were unable to visit ART Centres, Link ART Centres, PHCs, and ICTCs to collect their medicines. Following that, 112 youth received medicines from the youth leaders at their doorsteps. The youth leaders were able to support 475 youths during the lockdown period.
- Advocacy with local donors: Youth Coordinators and Youth leaders did advocacy with local donors and with support from the District Level Network (DLN) Board members and Care and Support Centre (CSC) staff, provided food kits to 175 youths.

## Virtual training organised on capacity building for COVID-19

KHPT and Alliance India jointly organised a virtual training for SSR (Sub-Sub Recipient) staff on COVID-19. Mr Pavankumar Shetty, Senior Program Officer, Alliance

- Follow-up meeting: Every month, the youth coordinators and youth leaders conducted follow-up meetings to discuss the number of youths who received medicines, counselling services, food kits, etc. during the lockdown period.
- Once in two months, 'Learning Exchange Platforms – Support Group' were also organized at the site offices to help the youth meet, share experiences and learn through socializing.

## Link Worker (LWS) programme

The LWS project, being implemented in 400 villages, 100 villages each in four districts of Northern Karnataka, namely Bijapur, Bagalkot, Belgaum and Gadag, is funded by the Karnataka State Aids Prevention Society (KSAPS). The initial MOU was for a period of one year, till 2020. Recently, KHPT signed an MOU with KSAPS to extend the LWS programme for another year, from April 2020 to March 2021.

The total grant amount is INR 1,10,75,572, with each district having INR 27.67 lakhs per year. The programme will be implemented in 400 high risk villages under the renewed MOU.

India and KHPT SR Team facilitated the session with a total of 36 (Care and Support Centres) CSCs. The training focused on the 'outreach protocol' to be followed during the COVID-19 pandemic. Basic preventive measures to be followed were explained through the interactions with outreach staff.

## the staff corner

### KHPT adopts HR and payroll software

The new HRMS tool, 'Workline' software has been launched to automate the HR functions and payroll processes. With six months of efforts, the HRMS software has officially come into operation with effect from 20 August. Using the HRMS software, the employee can complete the HR/payroll related processes through their computers/mobiles.

### KHPT appoints new chairperson to GICASH

KHPT appointed Dr Prarthana B S as the new Chairperson of Gender Integration and Committee Against Sexual Harassment (GICASH) for the 2020-2023 period. Dr Prarthana holds a senior position in the organization and is a member of the existing GICASH committee.

## Recruitments



**Ms Sukriti Chauhan** has joined the KHPT team as a Program and Advocacy Lead. She is part of Tuberculosis thematic unit.



**Mr Bisujaksha V S** joined the KHPT team as Digital Transformation Lead.



**Ms Simona Mohan** joined KHPT as a Consultant. She is closely working with the Adolescent Health thematic unit.