

**New Grants**

**GAIN awards KHPT grant to scale up food fortification of edible oil, milk and wheat flour in 18 states and Union Territories**

The Global Alliance for Improved Nutrition (GAIN) awarded KHPT a grant for a project titled “Scaling up fortification of edible oil, milk and wheat flour in select geographies of India”. The project is proposed to be implemented over two years in **18** states/UTs of India, including Madhya Pradesh, Gujarat, Rajasthan, Maharashtra, Andhra Pradesh, Telangana, Karnataka, Tamil Nadu, Uttar Pradesh, Punjab, Haryana, Odisha, Chattisgarh, Bihar, Tripura, Himachal Pradesh, Kerala, and the Andaman & Nicobar Islands. The project aims to increase the availability of fortified staple food in the open market and make fortified staples available to the most vulnerable populations through government social safety net food supply programs in all implementation states.

**KHPT receives grant from Healthium Medtech CSR for Early Childhood Care and Development intervention in Tumkur district**

KHPT received a grant from Healthium Medtech for a two-year project to design and develop innovative strategies and intervention packages aimed at improving Early Childhood Care and Development (ECCD) indicators in Kunigal block, Tumkur district. KHPT will develop a comprehensive convergence-based intervention model based on a life cycle approach from the pre-conception period to early childhood, going up to six years. The project will harness resources available through government and at the community level, and adopt an evidence-based programming approach from its inception.

**Capacity Building**

**Training of Trainers (TOT) conducted for CHWs on experiential theatre techniques**



**An ELIT demonstration for CHWs**

The KHPT team organized a three-day Training of Trainers program from March 13-15 for the Community Health Workers (CHWs) of the project to capacitate them on Experiential Learning Interactive Theatre (ELIT). ELIT is a form of applied theatre which converts spectators to spect-ACTORS. It engages the

audience and encourages them to think and reflect critically on issues put forth by the play. The most important feature of ELIT is that the actors are not trained professionals; they are the persons who experience the issues in the play, and thus are best positioned to talk about them.

The three-day training covered the concepts, principles and demonstration of ELIT, as well as contextualizing key messages using ELIT techniques and developing the participants’ facilitation skills to do ELIT training for ASHAs in Singasandra.

**ASHAs trained by CHWs to convert experiences into interactive theatre**

A two-day training for the ASHAs was held on March 28 and 29 to capacitate the ASHAs on using the ELIT techniques to enhance their Behaviour Change Communication (BCC)

activities at the community level. The ASHAs were trained on the basics of ELIT, as well as on how to express themselves, put together a storyline, script and engage the audience while facilitating the play. They prepared a script for a play they would be staging at the Arogya Habba in Singasandra on March 30.



**A session for ASHAs on expressing themselves**

**Community Engagement - Arogya Habba**

KHPT’s MNCH team realized that in urban slum areas, the ASHA was not respected or trusted in the community, and few people accessed her services or health services at the local Urban Primary Health Centre (UPHC). To increase the community’s confidence in ASHAs, and encourage them to access services at the Singasandra UPHC, the KHPT team organized Arogya Habba, a one-day health festival at Koodlu Gate slum quarters on March 30 under its Wipro Cares urban health initiative.

The event was comprised of a health screening camp supported by Singasandra UPHC staff, and a cultural theatre performance by ASHAs on their roles and responsibilities in



**A cultural activity for children**

the community, based on their ELIT training. The camp drew 119 residents from the Koodlu slum quarters community, who were screened for blood pressure, blood sugar, and anaemia,

followed by consultations with doctors from the Singasandra Urban Primary Health Centre.



**A rangoli competition for the ASHAs; ASHAs performing their play onstage**

A cultural performance was given by the ASHAs and children from the community to create a festive ambience.

The main highlight of the event was the experiential theatre show in the evening, during which the ASHAs enacted the story of a pregnant woman and how she was affected because she did not access healthcare services in time. The audience was encouraged to share their views about her dilemma, and to respond to what had happened in the play as if they were in her situation.

This ELIT was successful in triggering the thoughts of the audience on the key

community level issues related to MNCH care. More importantly, it was successful in sensitizing the community about the ASHA's



■ ASHAs performing their play on stage; Koodlu Gate residents at the screening camp

roles and responsibilities in improving MNCH care at the community level.



■ Koodlu Gate residents at the screening camp

## Voices from Arogya Habba

The last time I gave stage performance was when I was in school. I was not sure when KHPT told us that we need to educate the community through an ELIT performance. I was a bit apprehensive about that! But, I performed well today. I do not have stage fear anymore!

- Anusuya, ASHA

Though I reside in the slum quarters and work here as an ASHA, I didn't have adequate support from the community. Today, you (KHPT) facilitated my introduction to the community and helped them understand who I am.

- Lalitha, ASHA of Koodlu Slum quarters

I used to do the health camp in the morning hours. I had to struggle a lot to mobilize the beneficiaries here in Koodlu slum quarters. I used to send the ASHA multiple times during door-to-door visits and I myself used to convince them to avail the benefits. The footfall at such camps was around 30-50 beneficiaries. But today, I was surprised to see the beneficiaries coming into the camp without much effort!

- Sharada, Primary Health Care Officer (PHCO), Parappana Agrahara Sub centre

### Government Engagement

#### KHPT conducts virtual workshops for Tamil Nadu government officials on food fortification

KHPT organized a series of virtual workshops from January 21-27 to sensitize government officials from various departments, including the Public Distribution System, Integrated Child Development Scheme, Mid-day Meals and Food Safety on the importance of food fortification. A total of 1043 participants from all the departments participated in these workshops, during which the need and importance of food fortification, recent developments in the FSSAI's food fortification regulations, technical processes of fortification, quality assurance, as well as benefits of

fortification in improving nutritional status of population were discussed. The sessions for these workshops were facilitated by technical experts from GAIN-KHPT and Nutrition International.

#### KHPT attends meeting to discuss pilot wheat flour fortification intervention in Madhya Pradesh

KHPT attended a meeting with the Madhya Pradesh State Civil Supplies Corporation (MPSCSC) on March 16 to discuss a pilot intervention supplying fortified whole wheat flour through PDS in the state. The meeting was held under the chairmanship of MPSCSC Managing Director, Mr Tarun Kumar Pithode

(IAS), according to the instruction of Mr Faiz Ahmad Kidwai (IAS), Principal Secretary, Food, Civil Supplies and Consumer Protection, Madhya Pradesh. This meeting was attended by MPSCSC officials, with the virtual presence of representatives from GAIN and KHPT and Dr Suresh Sakhare, Scientist, CSIR-CFTRI, Mysuru. Technical questions with respect to wheat flour fortification were raised by the MPSCSC and addressed by the CFTRI expert, GAIN and KHPT team. Changes were made to a tender document on supplying fortified whole wheat flour through the PDS program in six districts of Madhya Pradesh as part of the pilot intervention; it will be released by MPSCSC in the public domain.

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