

MNCH QUARTERLY UPDATE

JULY-SEPTEMBER 2022

Government Engagement

KHPT contributes to the Government of Karnataka's nutrition policy

KHPT reviewed the nutrition policy of the Department of Women and Child Development, Government of Karnataka, and provided additional content related to preconception nutrition and women empowerment to be incorporated in the policy. KHPT added the need to ensure convergence between the frontline workers using the 3-sister concept to create monthly Arogya Mantapa platforms. The ASHA, Anganwadi worker and ANM are the linchpins of the community health structure, especially in ensuring that all women enter and continue within the continuum of care for maternal neonatal and child health, as well as providing suitable information on nutrition to families, distributing nutritional supplements and promoting healthy food consumption patterns within families.

KHPT develops SOPs for and evaluates Mahila Supplementary Nutrition Production & Training Centres

KHPT supported the Department of Women and Child Development (DWCD), Government of Karnataka in July towards the development of Standard Operating Procedures (SoP) for the Mahila Supplementary Nutrition Production & Training Centre's (MSPTC) to ensure the production of quality food. The MSPTC units are promoted by DWCD for manufacture and supply of Supplementary Nutrition Program food items to ICDS beneficiaries.

With KHPT's experience in establishing Decentralized Production Units for fortified blended food, the DWCD requested KHPT to conduct an evaluation of 10 MSPTC units across the state. A detailed evaluation report along with recommendations on topics including infrastructure, storage, hygiene and human resources has been shared with the DWCD.



KHPT visited 10 MSPTCs for the evaluation exercise

KHPT also added the importance of working with the Gram Panchayat to promote convergence for addressing the issue of undernutrition among vulnerable populations; promoting early childhood development through a life cycle model and a convergence approach; mapping local and cultural practices which has positive influence on Early Childhood Care and Development; ensuring the promotion of preconception care and having a preconception nutrition package.

KHPT to support wheat flour fortification efforts in Ladakh

KHPT was part of a meeting conducted to discuss the status of micronutrient malnutrition in Ladakh and strategies to address it through food fortification on July 5, under the chairmanship of Principal Secretary, Health. Representatives from the Fortification Division of FSSAI, Global Alliance for Improved Nutrition (GAIN), Food Safety and Food Civil

Supplies & Consumer Affairs Department participated in the meeting as well. During the meeting, officials were apprised on the need and importance of staple food fortification, with a focus on wheat flour fortification. The Government of Ladakh agreed to extend their support to GAIN-KHPT towards the adoption of wheat flour fortification in their Public Distribution System (PDS).

After the meeting, team visited the two mills in Leh and Kargil catering to PDS, to sensitize them on the process of wheat flour fortification. This was followed by a technical assessment of the two wheat flour mills to understand the additional equipment required for the mill to start the process of wheat flour fortification. KHPT will provide further technical support to scale up wheat flour fortification in Ladakh which will include hands-on training of the millers, preparing the technical assessment report, and support towards procuring premix and micro-feeders.

KHPT orients key officials at Kunigal taluk on ECCD

KHPT conducted a block-level orientation for key officials on the Early Childhood Care and Development (ECCD) on September 28 at Kunigal taluk. The team sensitized Panchayat Development Officers of all Gram Panchayats



Executive Officer, Kunigal Taluk Panchayat addressing the participants

in Kunigal, Medical Officers of all Primary Health Centres in Kunigal, ICDS Supervisors, as well as the Senior Health Inspector and Senior Lady Health Visitor of the Taluka Hospital on program strategies to seek their inputs and concurrence. The session was chaired by Dr Mariappa, Taluk Health Officer (THO), Kunigal block and Sri Joseph A, Executive Officer, Taluk Panchayath, Kunigal, and was attended by 70 persons.



Presentation on ECCD by Dr Yamuna, MNCH Specialist-KHPT

KHPT trains Medical Officers on using AI-based digital device for high-risk pregnancy monitoring

KHPT is testing Artificial Intelligence-enabled digital technology at 9 PHCs through the high-risk pregnancy surveillance and monitoring component of the ECCD implementation research. Fetosense devices can monitor the foetal heart rate, as well as uterine contractions with AI response, and can help the PHC Medical Officers to avert any delay in referral of pregnant women. This device will be



Sensitization on Fetosense device

positioned in 9 PHCs with a delivery load of over 20 per month or the highest number of pregnant women seeking antenatal care for optimal utilization of the devices to assess high-risk pregnancies, as well as for monitoring and opportune management/referral.

KHPT conducted demonstration and training on the device Medical Officers of these PHCs on September 28 at Kunigal.

Community Engagement

Facilitation of interaction with the beneficiaries and frontline workers

KHPT facilitated an interaction with pregnant women and mothers with children below the age of six years, as well as ASHA and Anganwadi workers at Kunigal block on September 22. The interaction was planned as part of the J&J pro bono exercise on digitizing the Mother Child Protection Card (MCP)



Interaction with frontline workers

card. The purpose of the interaction was to understand their knowledge and practices related to the utilization of the MCP card and potential solutions to improve the utilization of card through a mobile-based application for beneficiaries, as well as frontline workers, with interactive learning materials, gamification, quizzes etc., incorporated at relevant points.

Capacity Building

KHPT conducts four divisional level workshops on staple food fortification

KHPT conducted divisional level sensitization workshops on edible oil and milk fortification for industry representatives in Maharashtra, Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh and Punjab in the July-September period.

The workshop held in Nashik, Maharashtra, was attended by 71 participants. Representatives from 23 milk and 17 edible oil industries participated in the training. The workshop was presided over by the Joint

Commissioner, Nashik Division, Food and Drug Administration. The project team took sessions on what is fortification, the recent developments in Indian scenario, importance of staple food fortification to address micronutrient malnutrition and technical process of oil and milk fortification.

In Bengaluru, the workshop on September 28 was attended by 31 participants. The workshop was presided over by the Commissioner, Food Safety and Standards Authority, Government of Karnataka. The participants were taken

to the Karnataka Oil Seeds Federation and a practical demonstration was done on fortification and lab analysis.

A division level sensitization workshop on edible oil fortification was organized on July 26 at Morena, Madhya Pradesh, and a district level workshop was conducted on September 26 at Amritsar, Punjab. The Morena workshop was attended by 24 participants and in Amritsar, there were around 22 edible oil industry participants.

Partner Engagement

KHPT hosts visit from Wipro leaders and volunteers

KHPT hosted a field visit on July 26 for 15 global leaders of Wipro at Kudlu slum, Singasandra. This visit was made as part of their community volunteering activities to understand the key role performed by frontline workers in improving access to MNCH services, as well as the issues and challenges faced by pregnant and young mothers in availing health services.

The KHPT team spoke about the organization's history, vision, principles and initiatives to ensure communities, especially the most vulnerable, are empowered to lead a life of quality health and well-being.

The team facilitated an interaction with the project's target group i.e. pregnant women, young mothers, and frontline workers about



Interaction with the frontline workers

their aspirations, MNCH care-seeking practices, and their issues and challenges. The volunteers understood that community participation, involvement, responsibility and accountability will improve the reach and uptake of health services.

KHPT also facilitated a field visit on July 31 for 12 volunteers of Wipro at Kudlu slum, Singasandra. The volunteers interacted with Child Health Ambassadors to understand

their interests and hobbies, and the need for mentoring support by the volunteers. Volunteers then brainstormed with the KHPT team on the mentoring plan and jointly came up with a draft mentoring plan. The plan will be further reviewed and refined with the entire volunteer team.



Interaction between Child Health Ambassadors and Wipro volunteers, Kudlu slum

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