

MNCH QUARTERLY UPDATE

OCTOBER-DECEMBER 2022

KHPT awarded grant from Khorakiwala Family for KMC intervention in Mumbai and Kolkata

KHPT has been awarded a grant from the Khorakiwala Family to strengthen the provision of Kangaroo Mother Care (KMC) in high-



load maternity homes catering to vulnerable communities at the periphery of the metro cities of Mumbai and Kolkata. The three-year project will involve a needs assessment to identify facilitators and barriers to implementing KMC; the provision of mentoring support for staff nurses and paediatricians; Behaviour Change Communication (BCC) sessions for mothers/ foster KMC providers; the strengthening of facility–community linkages for continuation of KMC at home after discharge, as well as Continued Medical Education and Continued Nursing Education.

The project aims to reach **5000** low birth weight (LBW) babies (<2500 gms) and their mothers in three years. The major outcome of the project will be to increase effective KMC among LBW babies, i.e., eight or more hours of KMC and exclusive breastfeeding upon discharge from the health facility. The secondary outcomes will be an increase in the number of eligible babies initiated on KMC and the number of eligible babies who were continued on effective KMC on day 7 after discharge and at 28 days of age at home.

Government Engagement

KHPT participates in GoK ‘writeshop’ for a Malnutrition and Anaemia Mukth Karnataka

KHPT was invited to attend a ‘writeshop’ organized by the Department of Women and Child Development, Government of Karnataka, on December 14 and 15.

The two-day event, held under the leadership of the Commissioner, Department of Rural Development and Panchayat Raj, was a continuation of a workshop and group discussion conducted earlier in the month to lay a roadmap for a malnutrition and anaemia-free Karnataka.

The team also attended a meeting chaired by the Mission Director, NHM on December 26 to discuss age-wise interventions for Anaemia Mukth Karnataka. KHPT is supporting the development of a framework and strategy for preventing, identifying tracking and treating anaemia and malnutrition across the life cycle.

KHPT discusses fortification support with Principal Secretary, Food, Civil Supplies and Consumer Affairs, J&K

The KHPT team met with Mr Zubair Ahmad, Principal Secretary, Food, Civil Supplies and Consumer Affairs, Jammu & Kashmir on November 28 to discuss the inclusion of fortified wheat flour in the Public Distribution System. Mr Ahmad also discussed the need for training of representatives of wheat flour and edible oil industries on fortification. The training was planned for January.

KHPT briefs MP State Civil Supplies Corporation about assessment of flour mills

KHPT conducted a meeting on October 11 with Mr K K Shrivastav, General Manager and Mr P K Somani, Deputy General Manager of the Madhya Pradesh State Civil Supplies Corporation (MPSCSC). The team briefed the MPSCSC about the outcome of a visit made to assess flour mills in Khandwa and Narmadapuram districts using tools

jointly developed with Fortify Health. An agreement was made to use the tools for future assessments and training programs of flour mills empanelled by the MPSCSC.

KHPT meets with newly-appointed Principal Secretary, Food, Civil Supplies and Consumer Protection in Madhya Pradesh

A joint meeting of KHPT and Fortify Health was held on December 5 with Mr Umakanth Umrao, IAS, who was newly appointed as Principal Secretary, Food, Civil supplies and Consumer Protection, Government of Madhya Pradesh. Mr Umrao was introduced to the KHPT team and briefed about the activities conducted in the state regarding edible oil, milk and wheat flour fortification. Efforts made by both the organizations towards launching a pilot project for the distribution of fortified wheat flour through the Public Distribution System were also highlighted. The team also requested Mr Umrao to pursue Cabinet approval for the pilot project of wheat flour fortification.

Capacity Building

KHPT trains Block-level Resource Persons to capacitate frontline workers

The KHPT team conducted a two-day Training of Trainers (ToT) for 42 Block-level Resource Persons (BRPs) at Kunigal on November 15-16. The purpose of the training was to capacitate Supervisors of the Integrated Child Development Scheme (ICDS), Primary Health Care Officers (PHCOs) and ASHA Facilitators as BRPs to facilitate the first phase of the training of ASHAs and Anganwadi workers

at the Primary Health Centre (PHC) level. The training focused on imparting knowledge and skills to deliver sessions on self -development and communication skills.

One of the BRPs went on to conduct a two-day training for ASHAs and Anganwadi workers at Bhaktharahalli PHC on November 22-23. The training covered topics of self -development, communication skills and applying skills in the field in the context of Early Childhood Care and Development (ECCD).



Dr Yamuna, MNCH Specialist at KHPT, at the BRP training

KHPT sensitizes Community Health Officers, Gram Panchayats on pre-conception care



■ The orientation program for CHOs on ECCD

A one-day orientation program for Community Health Officers on ECCD was held in Kunigal on December 28 to help them understand the importance of preconception care (PCC) in improving ECCD, and to explore the key strategies and the activities to strengthen PCC.

KHPT also sensitized Gram Panchayat Task Force (GPTF) members from Ujjini Gram Panchayat on December 29 on the importance of preconception care during a health camp conducted under the Grama Panchayath

Arogya Amrutha Abhiyaana, a Government of Karnataka initiative supported by KHPT which aims to empower Gram Panchayats to bring healthcare services to vulnerable populations. At the camp, the team also sensitized **50** community members on the importance of preconception care. Five aspiring mothers underwent screening tests at the camp. Pre and post-test health education was led by the PHCO with the support of Community Facilitator.

KHPT-GAIN organize refresher training for master trainers

KHPT-GAIN organised three-day residential refresher training program from November 16-18 for **21** resource pool participants who had been selected from two earlier batches of training. The first day comprised of technical sessions on edible oil fortification. The second day involved soft skills training. On the



■ Master trainers on a site visit to an edible oil plant

third day, a visit to an edible oil industry was arranged for the practical demonstration of edible oil fortification. The session concluded with a post-training assessment, based on which participants were selected as final resource pool master trainers. Contact details of the resource persons will be displayed on the FFRC-FSSAI website as certified master trainers. This resource pool will be utilized

by KHPT-GAIN, industries and concerned departments for the edible oil fortification training programs.

KHPT conducts state-level trainings on food fortification for industry representatives

The fortification team conducted a state-level food fortification meeting for **72** edible oil, milk and wheat flour industry representatives in Chennai on November 24, chaired by Mr Lalvena, Commissioner, and Dr Devaparthasarathy Additional Commissioner, Tamil Nadu Food Safety Department. A virtual state-level sensitization workshop on wheat flour fortification was organized on December 16, attended by **16** industry representatives and presided over by Mr Mukesh Kashyap, DO and Nodal- Food Fortification, Food and Drug Administration, Government of Bihar. A similar virtual workshop on edible oil fortification was organized on December 23 for **25** industry participants. The workshop was presided over by Mr K D Kunjam, IAS, Controller FDA, Government of Chhattisgarh. A divisional level sensitization workshop on edible oil fortification was organized for **66** participants on October 12 at Hubli, Karnataka.

KHPT's Kangaroo Mother Care case study awarded special prize by Azim Premji University's Case Study Challenge

KHPT has won a 'Special prize in the category of Health Interventions' awarded by Azim Premji University's Stories of Change Case Study Challenge for the documentation of its Kangaroo Mother Care (KMC) intervention. The case study, titled 'Kangaroo Mother Care: Accelerating the uptake of a low-cost lifesaving method for low-birth-weight babies in Koppal district, Karnataka' will be published in the fourth volume of the Stories of Change compendium along with nine others documenting development sector innovations. The case study, written by Vrinda Manocha, documents the three-year implementation of KMC in health facilities and within the community in Koppal district, and draws on interviews from project and field staff from KHPT and implementation partner St John's Research Institute.

Partner Engagement

Fortification review meeting held at Srinagar



■ A team member makes a presentation at the fortification review meeting

A review meeting of the fortification project was conducted in Srinagar, J&K from November 30 to December 2. The three-day residential meeting was attended by state consultants, the KHPT central fortification team and representatives from GAIN. The major objectives of the meeting were to review

the activities, achievements, challenges of each state and to set targets for the next six months. Each of the team members presented updates for their state, which were reviewed.

Post-closure plans of rice fortification study discussed at meeting with St John's Research Institute

A meeting was held by the project team at St. John's Research Institute from December 8-9 to mark the closure of the study funded by the Department of Biotechnology titled: 'Long term (2 years) efficacy of indigenously developed micronutrient fortified rice (fortified with iron, vitamin B12 and folic acid) in improving iron stores in school children and their mothers; process standardization to match the physical characteristics of fortified rice kernels (FRK) with commercial rice varieties and storage stability'.

One of the two groups of children (one given micronutrient fortified rice and one given normal rice) in the study has shown improvement in iron stores in Koppal district, Karnataka. Throughout the duration of the study, the research team and study participants were blinded to the colour assignments given to the two groups (blue and red colour). At the end of the study, after all the data from the samples is available and analyzed statistically, the envelope containing the blinding codes will be opened. The respective colour codes and the type of rice distributed to each group will be identified. Scientific inferences will be made on the findings and a scientific report will be submitted to DBT, Government of India. A manuscript will also be submitted to an international journal based on study findings.

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