

## MATERNAL NEONATAL AND CHILD HEALTH QUARTERLY UPDATE

JULY-SEPTEMBER 2023

### KMC Ward inauguration at Central Hospital Ulhasnagar, Mumbai; KMC Committee formed to monitor progress

KHPT, in collaboration with partners and staff of the Central Hospital, Ulhasnagar, Mumbai, organized the inauguration of a Kangaroo Mother Care (KMC) ward at the hospital on September 14. The ward is designed to provide mothers with a dedicated space and hands-on support to provide prolonged KMC to their



■ KMC Ward at Central Hospital Ulhasnagar, Mumbai

low birth weight (LBW) babies. It is divided into a space with eight reclining cots for mothers to provide KMC, and a classroom section to teach mothers the technique, including breastfeeding and correct positioning, as well as the benefits of KMC.

Dr Manohar Bansode, Civil Surgeon of the Central Hospital, Ulhasnagar, chaired the inauguration event. Mr Dheeraj Ailani (son of Mr Kumar Ailani, MLA) along with his wife,



■ KMC Ward inauguration at Central Hospital Ulhasnagar, Mumbai

Ms Manisha Ailani, and Ms Mangal, a social worker from Ulhasnagar, were the chief guests of the inauguration programme. Hospital staff, staff nurses, representatives from KHPT, Dasara, and the Foundation for Mother and Child Health (FMCH) were also present.

A 16-member KMC Committee has also been formed to monitor the progress and quality of KMC implementation as well as to identify and address the challenges in KMC implementation. The committee includes a gynaecologist, paediatrician, staff in-charge, matron, Head of ASHA Union, members from local NGOs, Social Medical Superintendent, and representatives from KHPT. The committee will meet monthly to discuss progress and issues related to KMC implementation. Plans were made to initiate KMC in the postnatal care ward also, to provide the same care to stable LBW infants.

## Government Engagement

### KHPT team meets with Secretary, Department of Food Civil Supplies & Consumer Affairs, Ladakh

On July 11, KHPT team participated in a meeting, chaired by Shri Yetindra M Maralkar, Secretary of the Food, Civil Supplies and Consumer Affairs in the Union Territory of Ladakh. The purpose was to discuss the current status and future direction of the wheat flour fortification initiative within the Public Distribution System (PDS). The meeting gathered key stakeholders including FSSAI, GAIN, KHPT, and the Food Safety



■ KHPT team meets with Secretary, Department of Food Civil Supplies & Consumer Affairs, Ladakh

Department. During the meeting, Shri Yetindra M Maralkar was briefed on the current status of procuring micro feeders for fortifying wheat flour, and the challenges in finalizing premix vendors for the industries were discussed with possible solutions. Looking ahead, the industries in Kargil and Leh that supply wheat flour to PDS shops across Ladakh will receive technical training on wheat flour fortification. The anticipated launch of fortified wheat flour in the Union Territory of Ladakh's Public Distribution System (PDS) is tentatively scheduled for October 2023, marking a significant milestone in this endeavor.

## Capacity Building

### KHPT conducts on-site training on fortification in Ladakh



■ On-site training to Flour Mill on wheat flour fortification in Kargil, Ladakh

The KHPT team conducted on-site training sessions on July 12 and 13, with a focus on wheat flour fortification for three roller flour mills located in Ladakh. These mills play a crucial role as suppliers of wheat flour to PDS

in Leh. The training sessions were conducted at Khangri Flour Mills in Leh, Rajat Flour Mill in Leh, and Suru Valley Roller Flour Mill in Kargil.

These industries received assistance in procuring the essential premix required for fortifying wheat flour. Now with the support of Government of Ladakh, these industries will initiate the fortification process and subsequently distribute fortified wheat flour to PDS outlets throughout the Ladakh Union Territory.

### KHPT conducts district and divisional level sensitization workshops in Haryana and UP

KHPT recently organized sensitization workshops in Haryana and Uttar Pradesh,

targeting key districts and divisions. In Haryana, a District Level Sensitization Workshop was held on August 23, in Ambala City. This workshop focused on Ambala, Kurukshetra, and Yamuna Nagar districts. Approximately 25 representatives from edible oil and wheat flour industries attended the workshop. KHPT



■ Handing over training completion certificate to Kargil Roller Flour Mill

is planning on-site visits to provide further support to these industries.

In Uttar Pradesh, Divisional Level Sensitization Workshops were conducted across seven divisions from July 4 to August 4, including Gorakhpur, Meerut, Agra, Lucknow, Moradabad, Bareilly, and Varanasi. About **258** participants attended these workshops, including **119** from edible oil industries, **21** from milk dairies, and **113** Food Safety Officials.



■ **Divisional Level Sensitization Workshop in Varanasi, UP**

The workshops aimed to disseminate essential knowledge about fortification's significance, recent developments in the Indian context, and the critical role of staple food fortification in addressing micronutrient malnutrition. Participants gained technical insights into fortification processes for edible oil and milk.

### **Capacity building initiatives by KHPT for healthcare professionals on Pre-conception care in Tumakuru**

A one-day Training of Trainers (ToT) program was conducted by KHPT for Block level Resource Persons (BRPs) in Tumakuru and Kunigal blocks. The training in Kunigal block took place on August 22 and 23, while the training for BRPs in Tumakuru block was held on September 8. The ToT program emphasized the importance of Pre-conception Care (PCC) as a crucial life stage. It covered

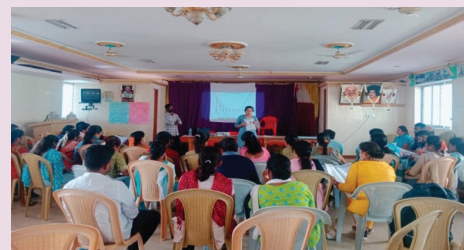
### **KHPT conducts soft skills training for frontline workers**

KHPT organized a two-day training program on soft skills, focusing on self-development



■ **Government Officials addressing at the Soft Skills and Communication Skills Training of FLWs**

essential components of PCC and strategies to strengthen PCC, equipping BRPs with valuable knowledge and skills in this area.



■ **ToT for the BRPs on PCC at Kunigal**

and effective communication, exclusively for Frontline Workers (FLWs) from Kithnagamangala PHC in Kunigal block. The training, held at Kithnamangala PHC on August 18 and 19, featured addresses from the Medical Officer, Panchayat Development Officer, and a representative from the local Mutt, offering valuable insights and guidance to the participants. A total of **18** FLWs actively participated in this initiative. These efforts by KHPT aim to enhance the skills and capabilities of FLWs, with the ultimate goal of contributing to the improvement of healthcare services and achieving better outcomes across the region.

## **Case story**

### **Baby thrives against all odds : A Kangaroo Mother Care success story**

Nagraj and Kavita (names changed) migrated from Gulbarga to Kampalapura village in Huliurudurga Gram Panchayat, Kunigal Taluk, Tumkur district, Karnataka. Nagraj works as a laborer in a brick factory, and the family, including Kavita's mother-in-law, lives in a small house. On June 6, Kavita gave birth to their fourth child, a baby boy, through a home delivery setup, and the family kept the news undisclosed.

The situation of home delivery went unnoticed for six days. When the owner of the brick factory where Nagraj works became aware of this news, he informed the ASHA. Immediately, the ASHA and KHPT's Community Facilitator (CF) took action, recognizing that the baby weighed only 1000 grams and was in urgent need of specialized care. Due to financial constraints and a lack of awareness, the parents had not sought medical care for their low birth weight baby. However, with the collective efforts of the ASHA, the CF, the community health officer, and the medical officer, Nagraj and Kavita were convinced to seek care at the Sick Newborn Care Unit (SNCU) in Mandya district hospital.

After 12 days of intensive treatment, the baby's condition stabilized, and he was shifted to the Kangaroo Mother Care (KMC) ward. There, the mother received instructions on providing KMC. However, upon discharge, the practice was discontinued due to a challenging home environment. Nagraj's alcoholism and abuse, coupled with the mother-in-law's inadequate postpartum diet, posed significant obstacles.

After several family-focused communication sessions facilitated by the ASHA with the support of the KHPT's CF, Kavita resumed KMC, which led to significant improvements in the baby's weight and overall health. As the baby gained weight, Nagraj also reduced his alcohol consumption and actively supported Kavita, participating in providing KMC when he returned from work.

The baby is thriving and has gained weight. KMC has been instrumental in the baby's healthy weight gain. During this process, Kavita has acquired a deeper understanding of appropriate childcare methods, ensuring the child's safety. Nagraj, too, is delighted with the progress in their child's health and the positive transformation achieved through KMC.



■ **Nagraj providing KMC to his LBW son at home**

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### **KHPT**

IT Park, 5th Floor, 1-4, Rajajinagar Industrial Area, Behind KSSIDC Admin office, Rajajinagar, Bengaluru - 560 044

Ph: + 91 80 4040 0200 | Fax: + 91 80 4040 0300 | E: khptblr@khpt.org | W: www.khpt.org

For more information on the above activities, please contact Antarlina Karmakar, Communication Manager, MNCH, at antarlina.karmakar@khpt.org