

MATERNAL NEONATAL AND CHILD HEALTH QUARTERLY UPDATE

OCTOBER-DECEMBER 2024

Government Engagement

KHPT hosts knowledge sharing event in Tamil Nadu on Scaling Up Edible Oil Fortification



Ms Inoshi Sharma, Executive Director of FSSAI, attends the Knowledge-Sharing Event in Madurai as Chief Guest.

On November 18, KHPT and the Global Alliance for Improved Nutrition (GAIN) hosted a knowledge-sharing event in Madurai titled “Scaling Up of Edible Oil Fortification in Tamil Nadu.” The event, chaired by Ms Inoshi Sharma, Executive Director of Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI), brought together key stakeholders, including Tamil Nadu Food Safety officials and edible oil millers, to share knowledge and discuss challenges & opportunities of edible oil fortification in Tamil Nadu.

The event highlighted efforts to scale up edible oil fortification by engaging edible oil millers and providing technical support to ensure the availability of quality fortified

edible oil at the population level. GAIN and KHPT continue to support FSSAI and Tamil Nadu FDA in large-scale staple food fortification, including edible oil fortification.



Knowledge-sharing event on Scaling Up Edible Oil Fortification in Tamil Nadu held in Madurai

KHPT hosts project dissemination workshop on Early Childhood Care and Development (ECCD) in Kunigal

KHPT, in partnership with Healthium Medtech Limited and the Government of Karnataka, organized a workshop on December 20, to showcase the outcomes, challenges, and learnings from the Early Childhood Care



KHPT team sharing insights at the Early Childhood Care and Development (ECCD) dissemination workshop in Kunigal.

and Development (ECCD) Pilot Project, “Improving Early Childhood Development through a Life Cycle Approach.”

The project, implemented in Kunigal Block, Tumakuru District (April 2022-December 2024), addressed barriers like malnutrition, inequities in rural access and gaps in health, nutrition and caregiving services. The workshop brought together 80 participants, including officials from Health, WCD, and Panchayat Raj departments, along with key dignitaries such as Sri S Narayan, KAS, Executive Officer, Kunigal Taluk Panchayat; Reproductive and Child Health Officer, Tumakuru District; Taluka Health Officer, Kunigal Taluk and representatives from Healthium Medtech

Limited. Contributions from KHPT team and community representatives highlighted the project’s impact.



Participants at the Early Childhood Care and Development (ECCD) dissemination workshop in Kunigal

Inauguration of Mother-Newborn Care Unit (MNCU) at SNR District Hospital, Kolar

One of South India’s first public health Mother-New-born Care Units (MNCU) has been established at SNR District Hospital, Kolar, as part of the ICMR project on implementation



The Honorable Deputy Commissioner of Kolar, Shri Akram Pasha, inaugurates the Mother-Newborn Care Unit (MNCU) at SNR District Hospital, Kolar

research for Immediate Kangaroo Mother Care (iKMC). This initiative was developed under the guidance from St. John’s Medical College Hospital and supported by KHPT. The MNCU was inaugurated on December 4, by the Honorable Deputy Commissioner of Kolar, Shri Akram Pasha, in the presence other esteemed district dignitaries.

In regular Neonatal Intensive Care Units (NICUs), mothers and babies are often kept apart, which can prevent the mothers in starting KMC early. The MNCU solves this by keeping mothers and babies together from the start. This way, mothers can take care of their babies through feeding, holding them close (skin-to-skin), and breastfeeding, while also getting help to recover after birth.

KHPT exposure visit to Assam to explore Health and Nutrition Initiatives

The exposure visit to Assam on December 12 & 13, 2024, focused on understanding ITC’s health and nutrition initiatives implemented through the Youth Invest Foundation (YIF) in collaboration with the State Women and Child Development (WCD) Department. The visit highlighted strategies for early childhood development (ECD) during the critical first 1,000 days and creating malnutrition-free villages through targeted nutrition counseling and improved ICDS efficiency. Discussions also explored broadening the scope of services beyond anemia to include undernutrition across the life cycle (0 to 35 years) and ECD (0 to 3 years), as well as expanding the initiative to additional blocks in Karnataka beyond the existing ones.

Capacity Building

KHPT Participates in National Workshop on Kangaroo Mother Care (KMC) Implementation

On October 25, KHPT's Maternal Neonatal and Child Health (MNCH) team members, Ms. Prathibha, Dr. Ayesha, and Dr. Neha



■ Inauguration of the National Workshop on KMC Implementation at St. John's Medical College Hospital, Bengaluru

took part in the National Consultative Workshop on "Difficulties Encountered for the Implementation of Kangaroo Mother Care (KMC) in India" held at St. John's Medical College Hospital, Bengaluru. Organized by the Kangaroo Mother Care Foundation, India, in collaboration with the National Neonatology Forum, Karnataka Chapter, the workshop aimed to identify and address challenges in KMC implementation.

Our team joined group discussions on facility-based and home-based KMC, sharing practical insights from our experiences in both rural and urban environments, contributing to a broader understanding of KMC implementation challenges. This workshop brought together representatives from civil society, academic institutions, researchers, and government

agencies, all working toward understanding and overcoming obstacles to KMC delivery. Discussions highlighted the specific challenges within facility and community settings, strategies to scale KMC, and the important role of academic institutions in enhancing quality standards.



■ Participants at the National Workshop on Kangaroo Mother Care (KMC) Implementation

KHPT participated in a workshop on Strengthening Premix Quality for Fortified Edible Oil in India

On December 9, 2024, a workshop titled "Strengthening Premix Quality for Fortified Edible Oil", was organized at National Institute of Food Technology Entrepreneurship and



■ Participants Engaged in the Workshop on Strengthening Premix Quality for Fortified Edible Oil in India

Management, Kundli (NIFTEM-K) under the guidance of Dr. Harinder Singh Oberai, Director of NIFTEM-K, and the leadership of Dr. Komal Chauhan, Head-CEFF and Dean (Research & Outreach). This initiative was conducted in collaboration with the Global Alliance for Improved Nutrition (GAIN). The event brought together key representatives from industry and development partners to deliberate on pathways to ensure quality fortification as part of India's public health strategy.

The event included a group discussion focused on the challenges in premix quality and opportunities for improving fortified edible oil. The KHPT team actively participated, sharing their experiences with these challenges and highlighting the technical support they

provided to oil millers for using premix in fortified edible oil. They also discussed strategies to overcome these challenges and explored opportunities to enhance premix quality in fortified oil.



■ KHPT Team collaborating in a group discussion on strengthening premix quality for fortified edible oil

KHPT conducts Training Session on Anemia and Malnutrition at Hunsur Taluk, Mysuru

On November 13, 2024, KHPT organized a Taluk-level training program on anemia and malnutrition at Hunsur Taluk Panchayat Bhavana. The session was attended by 74 participants, including representatives from the Rural Development and Panchayat Raj Department (RDPR) and Health Department. The training aimed to enhance the capacity of



■ Demonstration of using stadiometers and weighing scales for measuring height and weight

the Taluk-level health workers, Community Resource Persons, Community Health Officers and Medical Officers with skills to identify signs of anemia and malnutrition in children and pregnant women. Participants were introduced to non-invasive screening device for HB measurement and were trained in using stadiometers and weighing scales for BMI calculation, including referral procedures for further treatment."

Private Sector Engagement

KHPT Hosts Private Hospitals Engagement Program to Strengthen Newborn Care in Koppal

KHPT, in collaboration with the Indian Medical Association (IMA) Gangavathi, St. John's Research Institute, and the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, organized the Private Hospitals Engagement Program on December 12, at IMA Bhavan, Gangavathi.

The event aimed to raise awareness among private healthcare practitioners about



■ Participants at the Private Hospitals Engagement Program, Gangavathi, Koppal

the Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR)-led Neonatal Mortality Reduction Implementation Project in Koppal district and highlighted the role of private hospitals in reducing neonatal and perinatal mortality. Key discussions focused on high-risk pregnancy management, newborn care, referral pathways, and leveraging programs like PMSMA and Ayushman Bharat - Arogya Karnataka to bridge healthcare gaps and improve neonatal outcomes.

KHPT Organizes Private Hospitals Engagement Program to Address Stillbirth Reduction in Haveri

In collaboration with the Indian Medical Association (IMA) Haveri, the Haveri Obstetrics and Gynaecology Society, and St. John's Research Institute, KHPT organized a Private Hospitals Engagement Program on December 11, 2024 at IMA Hall, Ranebennur. The primary objective of the event was to sensitize private practitioners about the ICMR-led Stillbirth Reduction Research Project being conducted in the district and to explore opportunities for collaboration.

The program was attended by around **20** obstetricians and gynecologists, and pediatricians practicing in private hospitals across Haveri and Ranebennur talukas. Dr. Rajnish Samal, Senior Consultant in Maternal and Fetal Medicine at Bangalore Baptist Hospital, delivered the keynote address. During his session, he discussed the burden, causes, evaluation, and management of stillbirths, as well as planning for future pregnancies. This event marks the first step towards a public-private partnership aimed at achieving the shared goal of reducing stillbirths in Haveri district.



■ **Discussion on Stillbirth and Neonatal Mortality Reduction at the Private Hospitals Engagement Program**

Program Implementation

The project, **“Supporting India’s domestic ecosystem for provision of fortified oils while ensuring sustainability and quality-assurance,”** aims to combat malnutrition and anemia through large-scale food fortification by providing technical support for the fortification of edible oil.

KHPT has been actively engaged in food fortification initiatives to address malnutrition and anemia. With funding from the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation (BMGF), KHPT will implement this project across seven states: Madhya Pradesh, Gujarat, Uttar Pradesh, Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh, Rajasthan, and Tamil Nadu.

KHPT, with support from the Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR), is implementing a five-year research initiative in Chitradurga district, Karnataka, **“First-1000-Days of Life: Implementation Research for a District Model of Care in Karnataka, India”**

The project focuses on maternal care across all stages-preconception, pregnancy, childbirth, and postpartum-while also addressing neonatal mortality through targeted interventions for small and sick newborns. Special attention will be given to preterm birth, low birth weight, birth asphyxia and neonatal sepsis. Additionally, the initiative aims to improve early childhood neurodevelopmental outcomes. The research will design, implement, and evaluate a scalable district model aligned with India’s Newborn Action Plan (INAP) targets for 2030.

KHPT
engage, innovate, empower

Over 20 million lives touched!

In 2024, we advanced our mission to empower communities and improve their health.

We look forward to another year of collaboration, compassion, and shared success.

Wishing you and your loved ones a New Year filled with health and happiness!

With gratitude,
Team KHPT

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KHPT

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