

MNCH QUARTERLY UPDATE

JANUARY - MARCH 2021

Partnerships

KHPT awarded Rs 25 lakh grant from HCL Foundation for preconception nutrition initiative

KHPT was awarded a grant of Rs 25 lakh from the HCL Foundation as runners-up for its novel concept of preconception nutrition for newly married women. KHPT progressed from one of 9395 registered organizations applying for grants in health, environment and education to 30 shortlisted at sub-jury level and finally to three public health organizations at the jury level. Our initiative will also be included in a Roli Books compendium of finalist

organizations. KHPT continues to focus on this much-needed area by re-strategizing implementation plans to conduct an in-depth situation needs assessment to understand challenges and opportunities and present these findings to state and national-level decision makers through dissemination workshops.

KHPT participates in USAID co-creation workshop

KHPT was invited to a co-creation workshop for the USAID/India Maternal Newborn Child Health Accelerator, which aims to improve MNCH outcomes

in key priority areas of high need, following our concept note submission in August 2020.

Mr. Mohan HL, CEO and Dr Krishnamurthy, Advisor, attended the workshop from Feb 16-18 to gain a broader understanding of USAID's plans and other attending organizations' ideas. The workshop enabled organizations to share ideas and come together as a consortium and pitch their ideas to USAID. USAID requested a full proposal, which was submitted on March 24.

KHPT presents at NHSRC national-level conference on constituting Jan Arogya Samitis

KHPT was invited by the National Health Systems Resource Centre (NHSRC) to take a session during a virtual national-level training on "Constitution of Jan Arogya Samitis (JAS)" on March 26 for the key officials of all the states. This session was presented

Capacity Building

by Ms. Prathibha Rai, Manager, Community Interventions, and was titled "Community level Campaign for Constitution of JAS – Lessons from past interventions". KHPT presented its experience in implementing "Hamaara Tyohaar/Our Festival", a community-level campaign to constitute Village Health Sanitation and Nutrition Committees and explained how this intervention could be used in constituting JAS. The session was appreciated by the

participants, who felt that a similar approach could be adopted to constitute JAS in their geographies.

KHPT also has been considered by NHSRC as part of the National Task force formed by NHSRC to constitute JAS and to provide support if any of the states request KHPT's presence on state-level Task Forces.

Maternal, Neonatal and Child Health

CARE-India MNCH Project

KHPT is implementing the CARE India-MNCH project in Bihar to strengthen the capacity of Front Line Workers to mentor ASHAs and improve critical MNCH outcomes.

KHPT establishes team of State Resource Persons to streamline FLW training

KHPT identified a team of seven training facilitators as State Resource Persons (SRPs) to virtually support and mentor CARE India Master Resource Persons (MRPs). This was intended to streamline the training of District Resource Persons who will be capacitating frontline workers (FLW) on the ground. These SRPs are from diverse backgrounds and have experience in diverse international classroom environments, facilitating sessions using dance/movement, and using psychotherapy, experiential education and practice-based techniques. This is integral as the training modules developed by KHPT focus not only on technical information, but building up a sense of self-worth and identity of the FLWs, as well as community engagement skills.

KHPT identified the team from a pool of 45 eligible candidates through a rigorous screening process.

The 7 SRPs underwent a virtual induction training to orient them about the project and training process. KHPT will provide mentoring support to these SRPs while they implement training in the field.

Master and District Resource Persons capacitated for FLW training

CARE India has hired one staff member each from 38 districts of Bihar to serve as Master Resource Persons (MRPs) to capacitate District Resource Persons (DRPs) and ensure that they train Frontline Workers (FLWs) at cluster level. The training, held from March 22-25 days in Patna, provided them the skills to deliver the training for FLWs on the first two modules on professional dignity and community engagement respectively, using participatory facilitation techniques.

CARE has also identified a team of Block Community Facilitators/ASHA Facilitators at the district level as DRPs. On average, 8-10 DRPs per district have been identified to roll out the training for the FLWs

- including ASHAs, ASHA facilitators - in their respective districts. The DRPs were capacitated through in-person training with the MRPs, supported by the state resource person who would join over the video call.

The target for the KHPT is to train 300 DRPs in 15 batches. At the end of March, KHPT had trained 9 batches covering 227 DRPs.



An activity conducted during MRP training in Patna

Voices from the field

"I feel this training will touch the heart of the ASHAs because the module is structured in a way to connect with the field realities and to address the day to day challenges faced by the FLWs in their professional and personal life." – a **Master Resource Person's feedback at the end of his training**

"I take this media sensitization programme as a platform and request all media people to take this wonderful opportunity to help Telangana state to penetrate each and every household and make the public aware of what is food fortification and what wonders it can do." – **Mr. T. Vijay Kumar, Deputy Food Controller, Department of Food Safety, Government of Telangana**

Fortification Initiatives

Addressing Micronutrient Deficiencies through Edible oil, Milk and Wheat flour fortification

KHPT works as a neutral representative in catalyzing, coordinating and implementing the scale up of large-scale staple food fortification across 20 states in India through effective government and other stakeholder engagement in partnerships with the Global Alliance for Improved Nutrition (GAIN).

Government Engagement

KHPT-GAIN felicitated at Himachal Pradesh summit to celebrate achievements in wheat flour fortification



HP state officials, and representatives from KHPT and GAIN release communication materials prepared by KHPT at the summit

The Department of Food, Civil Supplies and Consumer Affairs, Himachal Pradesh (HP), organized an event in collaboration with technical support partners GAIN-KHPT to celebrate its achievements in providing fortified wheat flour to all its beneficiaries through social safety net programs

such as the Public Distribution System (PDS), reaching about 18,00,000 families under different ration card categories. Shri Rajinder Garg, Minister of Food, Civil Supplies and Consumer Affairs, graced the occasion and delivered the keynote address. He spoke of the dedication of wheat flour millers in making Himachal Pradesh the first state in India to initiate 100% wheat flour fortification, even through the difficulties they faced during the COVID-19 pandemic. Mr. Aabid Hussain Sadiq, Director, Department of Food, Civil Supplies and Consumer Affairs, Himachal Pradesh, delivered a special address on the journey towards improved nutrition security through the PDS in the state.

Dr Seema, Nutrition Expert, Women and Child Department made a presentation about fortification initiatives in the Department. Dignitaries at the event released a brief on Himachal Pradesh's achievements in fortification, a fact sheet presenting the nutritional status of the population in Himachal

Pradesh and the efforts made by the state government to scale up staple food fortification through safety net programs and the open market, an industry survey report and a research brief based on findings of a KHPT-GAIN industry survey to understand the overall impact on production and fortification on the edible oil, milk and wheat flour industries due to COVID-19 related restrictions.

Representatives from GAIN and KHPT, technical support partners to the Government of Himachal Pradesh's food fortification initiatives, also spoke at the event. Dr Troy Cunningham, Thematic Lead, Maternal and Child Health, KHPT, talked about the project's inception and journey in Himachal Pradesh since 2019 and progress made towards scaling up food fortification in the state. Mr. Tarun Vij, Country Director, GAIN, talked about establishing partnerships and the importance of collaboration in scaling up nutrition interventions across the country.

Capacity Building

Sensitization workshops in three states orient media on fortification

KHPT organized three media sensitization workshops in March with senior officials from the food safety departments of Kerala, Telangana and Madhya Pradesh. KHPT has been providing technical support towards food fortification in 20 states, and media sensitization and engagement forms an essential component of these efforts, especially to generate demand for fortified food, and increase awareness among the general population on micronutrient deficiencies and staple food fortification as an effective strategy to address them.

The events were well-attended by the media, which engaged in lively question and answer sessions with KHPT and senior officials following an orientation on food fortification. News of the food fortification process and the states' efforts were published in the English and regional-language newspapers and websites and tracked by KHPT. Through these workshops, KHPT expects to develop effective partnerships with various media channels, improve sensitivity levels of media persons in covering news about the hidden hunger, micronutrient malnutrition and food fortification as a complimentary strategy to tackle micronutrient deficiencies. This will result in increased media coverage and accurate reporting on micronutrient malnutrition and the benefits of consuming fortified food.



Shri Faiz Ahmed Kidwai, IAS, Principal Secretary, Food and Civil Supplies Dept, Govt. of MP addresses the media at the workshop in Bhopal

Tamil Nadu industries attend food fortification conclave



Mr Gururaj Patil, Team Lead, Fortification, addresses the audience at the Tamil Nadu conclave

KHPT-GAIN organized a Food Fortification Industrial Conclave on February 22 in Chennai in collaboration with the Department of Food Safety, Tamil Nadu. The event was attended by 55 participants representing edible oil, milk and wheat flour industries.

In his inaugural speech, Dr. Mathusoothanan, Assistant Commissioner, Department of Food Safety, Government of Tamil Nadu, stressed that the government is seriously promoting food fortification as an effective strategy to combat micronutrient malnutrition and that the recent draft notification by the FSSAI making fortification mandatory for packaged edible oil and toned, double-toned, skimmed and standardized milk is a step in the right direction. He thanked KHPT-GAIN for providing continuous support to the department in taking forward the food fortification initiative in the state and released Tamil versions of films on edible oil, wheat flour and milk fortification which were adapted by KHPT.

Mr. Gururaj Patil, Team Lead for fortification projects, KHPT, presented the overview of the project, while Ms. Jagatheswari, State Consultant, Tamil Nadu presenting project updates from Tamil Nadu. Mr. Shreeraj Manampadi, Program Manager from KHPT presented the recent developments in Fortification regulations. KHPT's technical experts also clarified industry representatives' doubts and apprehensions regarding fortification.



Shri Rajinder Garg, Minister of Food, Civil Supplies and Consumer Affairs, Govt. of Himachal Pradesh, tweeted about the event, acknowledging KHPT-GAIN's contribution

Food safety officers sensitized on fortification

KHPT conducted sensitization workshops on staple food fortification for food safety officers, including newly recruited officers, in the states of Odisha, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra and Andhra Pradesh in January. Around 175 Food Safety Officers from these 4 states attended the workshops and were trained on the complete basic and technical aspects of food fortification. After these workshops, industry sensitization and onsite trainings were planned in the states.



The virtual workshop for Food Safety Officers in Maharashtra