







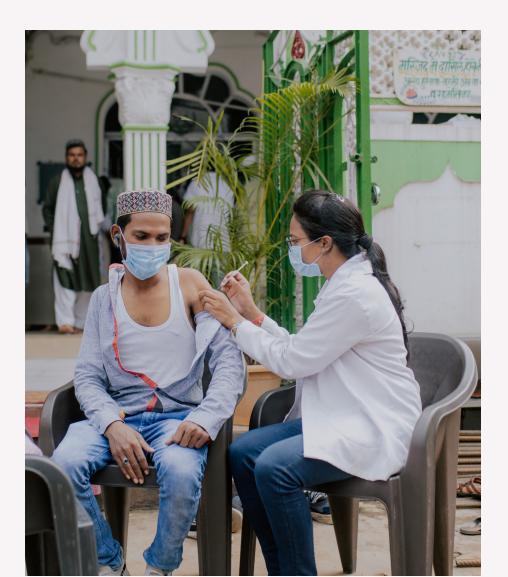


Community leader Junaid Ahmad Khan is the secretary of Gharib Nawaz Masjid. The Masjid committee oversees the concerns of people in the locality. During the first lockdown, the state government collaborated with the committee members and worked on creating awareness of the importance of staying at home and how it was critical to preventing the spread of COVID-19. Though people were reluctant to stop coming to the mosque to offer Namaz during the lockdown, they understood that the community had to act in each other's best interests.

The MOMENTUM Routine Immunization Transformation and Equity Project, supported by the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID), ensures equitable vaccination to vulnerable, hard-to-reach, and marginalized communities.

The state government expended its social welfare resources, collaborated with the Project, and delegated the awareness programs and vaccine dispensation activities to local change agents. Religious community leaders, local NGOs, ANM workers, and others were reached to build vaccine confidence, and increase

vaccine uptake among under-represented groups.





In Chhattisgarh, the Project has engaged with local non-governmental organizations like SAMARTHAN, TCI Foundation, HelpAge India and SMRC to maximise reach amongst the priority groups.

Under the government's guidance and the Project's dedicated efforts, the team set up three vaccination camps at the mosque, where close to 300 people, all above 18, were vaccinated.

Under the leadership of the government, the project has been able to create vaccine awareness and mobilize minority communities to take their COVID-19 vaccination.

Today, priority groups in Chattisgarh have been united into getting vaccinated due to their common spiritual interests that have been leveraged by the state government and the Project, working alongside local players for the common and greater good.





