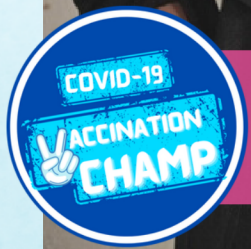


# MOMENTUM

Routine Immunization Transformation and Equity



**Dr. Vezokholu Khamo**  
Nagaland

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. In Nagaland, the Project has engaged local non-governmental organizations like ISRN to build vaccine confidence amongst priority groups.

Dr. Vezokholu Khamo has been working in Public Healthcare Centre (PHC) Athibung since 2015. A small subdivision of Peren district, Athibung spans across 29 villages. Athibung's medical team has been working on COVID-19 awareness and vaccination since early 2020.



One of the biggest challenges for Dr. Khamo's team has been faith-based hesitancy. Beneficiaries belonging to certain churches fear the vaccine for faith-based reasons.

The team has conducted outreach programs for the community by first engaging with youth leaders and church leaders. Dr. Khamo and her team have even customized their approach to include sermons at these churches to engage with beneficiaries in the most effective way.

The Project team, in collaboration with the local block taskforce – comprising of administration, police, education department and various community leaders—as well as CTOs and NGO partners jointly oversee the vaccination rollout in Athibung.

Officials like Dr. Khamo have been a beacon of hope for remote populations in Nagaland who are not only cut off from city amenities but also battling systemic vaccine hesitancy issues.