

# MOMENTUM

Routine Immunization Transformation and Equity



*All is calm  
on the waterfront*

COVID-19 VACCINATION  
*diaries*

Haren Kaiborta is a 43 years old fisherman who benefitted from the Project in Assam, India



At the crack of dawn, Haren Kaiborta and his fellow fishermen prepare their boats and nets to venture out for another day of fishing. A traditional fisherman in an interior district of the riverine valley in Assam, 43-year-old Haren's life runs like clockwork. Waking up, he prepares his equipment and sets sail deep into the waters of the Brahmaputra to catch fish that he sells in the nearby market. A life so tightly strung that he does not find time to even take notice of the global pandemic.

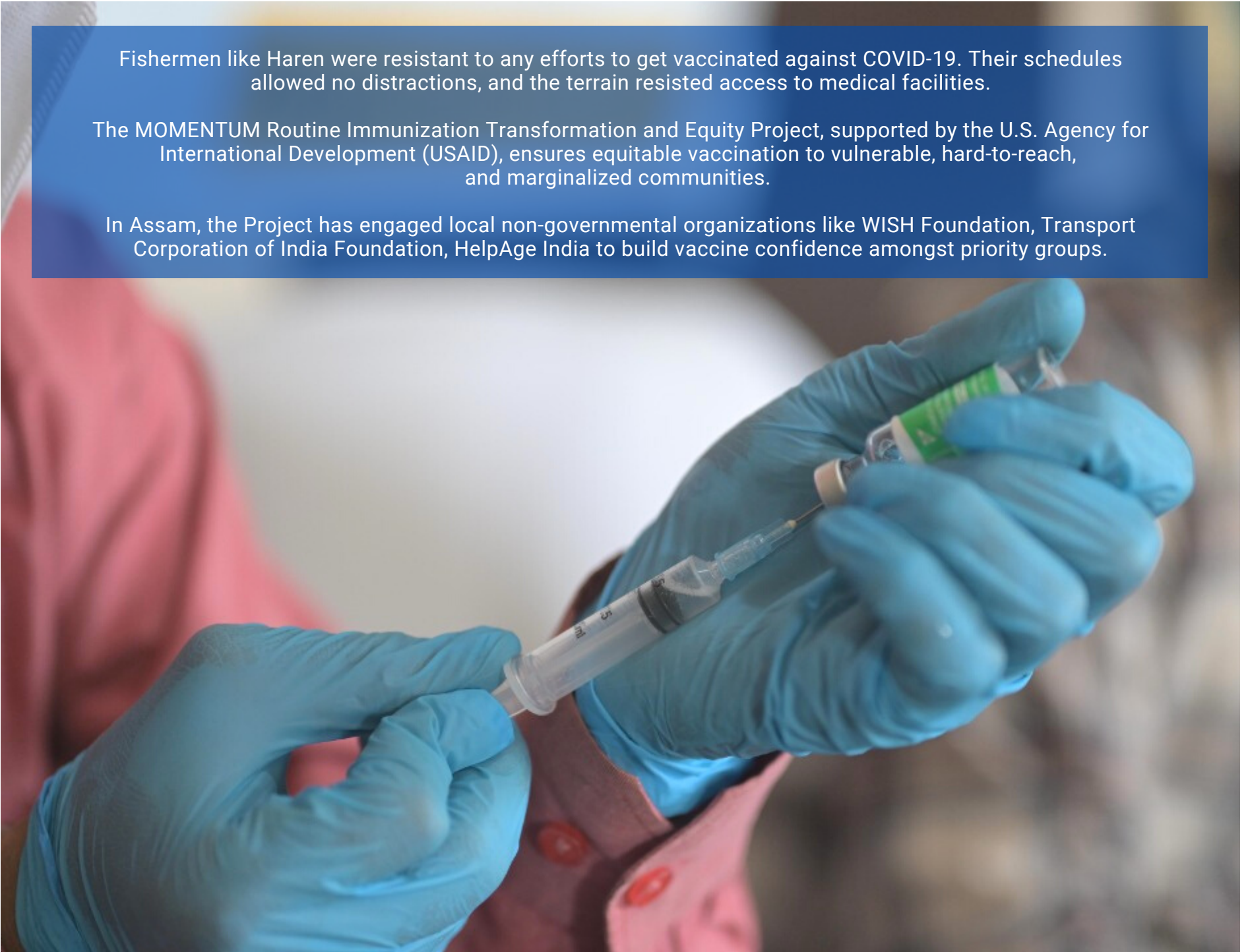
Many fishermen strewn in the villages at the edge of the Brahmaputra had to go on with their daily routines even as they watched the world crumbling under the waves of the COVID-19 pandemic. In a life consistently threatened by inaccessible terrain, devastating floods, and poverty, COVID-19 only added to their woes.



Fishermen like Haren were resistant to any efforts to get vaccinated against COVID-19. Their schedules allowed no distractions, and the terrain resisted access to medical facilities.

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 Assam, the Project has engaged local non-governmental organizations like WISH Foundation, Transport Corporation of India Foundation, HelpAge India to build vaccine confidence amongst priority groups.





The Project works closely with its NGOs and their team of community mobilizers to address micro barriers, positively influence behaviours, and encourage communities to complete their COVID-19 vaccination.



Understanding the crisis that Assam’s fishermen were facing, the Project became a much-needed savior to this secluded and hard-to-reach population.

With innovative means to reach them at their work, interpersonal communication and counseling was adopted among the fishermen community on the importance of getting vaccinated. The Project also informed them about the nearest COVID-19 vaccine facility for them to get their doses.





Today, Haren and his peers form one of the most satisfying success stories, evidenced by the smiles on their faces. They have taken to the waters merrily after completing the stipulated doses of the COVID-19 vaccine.



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