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Transgender Community



TAMIL NADU

During lockdown, Shabu, a transgender person living in Madurai Maavattam in Tamil Nadu struggled as all income opportunities seemed to be drying up for her due to the pandemic.

Shabu, who worked as a dancer and her mother who worked as a house help were both unemployed. With no work in hand, they were hard-pressed for basic sustenance to survive.

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 collaborated with the Project, and delegated the awareness programs and vaccine dispensation activities to local change agents to increase vaccine uptake among under-represented groups.



In Tamil Nadu, the Project has engaged with local non-governmental organizations like ISAP, SAATHI, HelpAge, TCIF and Leprosy Mission to maximize reach amongst the priority groups. A combination of the relentless pro-vaccine messaging, door-to-door visits by ANM workers and setting up of easy-access camps for the minority community who avoided crowded hospitals or social situations at all costs – led to successful and increased penetration of the COVID-19 vaccine in the LGBTQ community of Tamil Nadu.



Transgender individuals like Shabu who found the courage to fight rumours, prejudices, worsening financial crisis and chose to complete the COVID-19 vaccination course are real champions in the Project's mission to achieve maximum vaccine penetration in the under-represented populations of the state.