

Shaikh Sarfaraz Mohammad lives in Boudh district, Odisha with his wife and two children. The MOMENTUM Routine Immunization Transformation and Equity Project, supported by the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) ensures equitable COVID-19 vaccination to hard-to-reach, marginalized, and vulnerable communities, including minority groups like Shaikh Sarfaraz's community.

Shaikh Sarfaraz runs a furniture and home appliances store. Like many families with young children, Shaikh's petrified family stayed locked inside the house during the entire pandemic - his biggest fear being the thought of his family ending up in the hospital, separated from each other.

The introduction of the COVID-19 vaccine was a big relief amidst this fear and uncertainty.





The Project team went door-to-door to spread awareness regarding the vaccine and mobilise the communities to get vaccinated.

Shaikh Sarfaraz took this opportunity to get himself and his family vaccinated.

From this point onwards, he was reassured about his family's safety and began advocating the benefits of the COVID-19 vaccine to neighbours.

His shop is close to a vaccination center. Many people who wished to take the vaccine did not know how to register for the process. Shaikh helped people register on the CoWIN platform and even booked slots for them.

Shaikh expressed his thanks to the Project team for their diligent efforts, and spoke about seeing an improvement in community health and spirit since the project started.