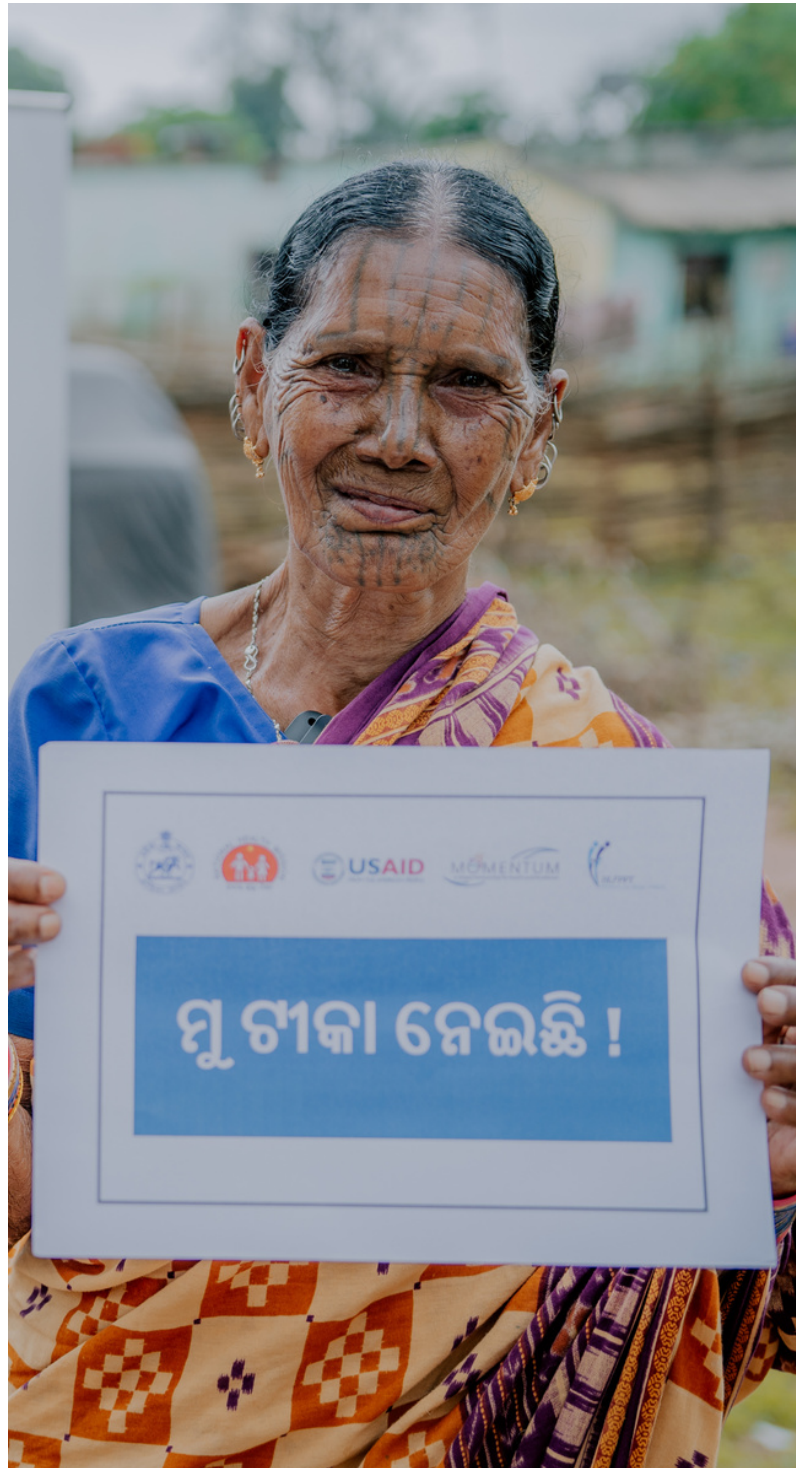




USAID
FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE



The Elderly



In the ongoing nation-wide COVID-19 vaccination rollout, it is crucial that elderly people— a uniquely at-risk population— not be left out.

Mosli Diggall is an elderly woman of the Christian community in Phulbani district of Odisha.

Like many people in her community, Mosli Diggall and her family had limited knowledge about COVID-19 and how to combat it.

The Project, along with its on-ground partners, has worked hard to engage with the community to ensure all sections of a community have equitable knowledge about, and access to the vaccine.

ODISHA



When COVID-19 vaccine came, Mosli Diggall was very hesitant to get vaccinated because she had heard rumors about people dying due to the vaccine. In addition to that, she was fearful that at her advanced age the vaccine could make her weak or bring about additional complications. And besides, neither she nor her family understood the importance of getting her vaccinated—since she mostly stayed indoors.

However, after attending multiple awareness sessions conducted by ASHA and ANM workers for the community, Mosli Diggall worked up the courage for her first dose. In time, she was convinced it was safe, and took the next two doses too.

These sessions lead to greater awareness and demand generation for the vaccine. People also got an opportunity to voice their questions at these sessions.



Frontline workers and thematic experts conducted sessions and meetings on aspects on aspects of the COVID-19 pandemic like what the virus is, how it spreads, how to protect oneself, and how to get vaccinated.

Now Mosli Diggal and her family are fully vaccinated. She has taken 3 doses, and is confident in her ability to stay safe during the pandemic.