

MOMENTUM

Routine Immunization Transformation and Equity



The Thatak Nunpuitute located in the Kolasib district of Mizoram is home for elderly, disabled, and drug users. The residents here were extremely vaccine hesitant because of rumours and misconceptions about the vaccine. Issues such as needle phobia for recovering drug users, and lack of conviction in the vaccine's efficiency posed significant difficulties.

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 expended its social welfare resources, collaborated with the Project, and delegated awareness programs and vaccine dispensation activities to local change agents such as community leaders, local Non-Government Organizations (NGOs), Auxilliary Nurse Midwives (ANMs), and others. In Mizoram, the State Government joined hands with the Project and engaged local NGOs like Mission Foundation Movement(MFM) to maximize reach, build vaccine confidence, and increase vaccine uptake among under-represented groups.

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Under the supervision of the State Government, Project representatives conducted frequent and persistent counselling sessions addressing the group and organized one-on-one interactions with the residents to explain that the vaccine was the only weapon against the COVID-19 pandemic. They also addressed common rumours and assured the residents of complete safety post vaccination. An easy-access vaccination camp was set up within the premises of Nunpuitute to encourage the residents to complete their vaccination course.

Thanks to the untiring efforts of the Thatak Nunpuitute Team working under the guidance of the State Government and in collaboration with the Project, the rehabilitation center has been fully vaccinated. They are our COVID-19 Vaccination Champs!