



ODISHA

The MOMENTUM Routine Immunization Transformation and Equity Project, supported by the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) ensures equitable COVID-19 vaccination for hard-to-reach, marginalized, and vulnerable communities.

One such vulnerable community is Pregnant and Lactating Women (PLW), who are in a unique position in terms of their own, and their child's health.





Sanju Malli, sarpanch of Guma village in Rayagada district, Odisha, is a lactating mother too.

Sanju Malli has gone door-to-door to speak about the benefits of getting vaccinated, and to dispel misinformation.

As sarpanch, it is Sanju Malli's prerogative to lead by example. She has shown her community that it is safe to get vaccinated—even as a lactating mother—having been vaccinated herself. In fact, she took her second dose while pregnant.

Seeing that both she and her baby are healthy, the villagers started following her example.

Taking the time to understand the concerns of her community, her efforts have paid off, and the people of Guma village are now fully vaccinated.

She is a COVID-19 champ!



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