

MOMENTUM

Routine Immunization Transformation and Equity



Father John Zodu Sanga
Mizoram



Father John Zodu Sanga is a priest at the St. Joseph Minor Seminary in Kolasib district, Mizoram. During the COVID-19 pandemic, his church took a lead in receiving the vaccines, and explaining the benefits of getting vaccinated to the community at various forums.

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 the 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 with local NGOs like- Mission Foundation Movement (MFM) to maximize reach, build vaccine confidence, and increase vaccine uptake among under-represented groups.

As the district has Christian dominant population, the Project collaborated with Father John Zodu Sanga, an influential religious leader for addressing and dispelling myths about the COVID-19 vaccine to the Christian Catholic communities in Kolasib. It was critical that Christian population in the state get vaccinated and the support from Father John proved very helpful in mobilizing the communities to take their vaccination.

Father John worked tirelessly and supported the State Government officials and local stakeholders to negotiate the various concerns, superstitions, and religious beliefs. It was through his commitment to the cause, that the Kolasib district of Mizoram was able to vaccinate a large number of people against COVID-19. He is our COVID-19 Vaccination Champ!