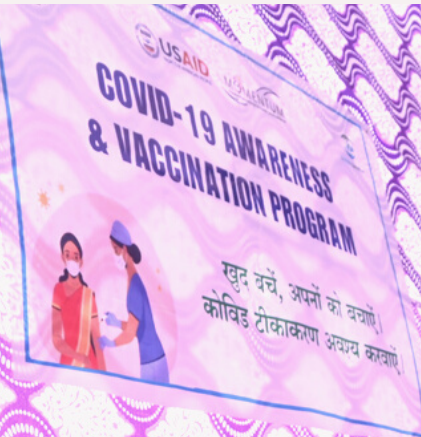


Vaccination Camp Jaipur, Rajasthan



COVID-19 VACCINATION

diaries

The Project helps the economically backward communities in Jaipur's urban slums receive easy access to COVID-19 vaccine





Jaipur, the capital city of Rajasthan, features a fairly large section of urban slums that comprise a population of nomads, and people from the working class engaged in house-cleaning, vegetable vendors, and daily wage labourers. Due to economic hardships, and low literacy levels, these were some of the hardest-hit sections during the pandemic. It was very challenging for health workers who were fighting hesitancy and achieving optimum vaccine penetration within these communities.

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 collaborated with the Project, and delegated the awareness programs and vaccine dispensation activities to local change agents to increase vaccine uptake among under-represented groups. In Rajasthan, the Project has engaged local Non-Governmental Organizations like Ladli Foundation, JATAN Sansthan, DHARA Sansthan, Transport Corporation of India Foundation (TCIF), Society for All Round Development (SARD) and HelpAge India to build vaccine confidence amongst priority groups.

Some of the typical difficulties the Project representatives had to contend with were accessing the nomad population due to their wandering lifestyles, reaching daily-wage outside their rigorous work schedule, fighting myths and perceptions resulting from the low awareness and the highly impressionistic mindset of slum residents, and removing uncertainty and doubts in the minds of pregnant and lactating women.



Under the guidance of the state government, the Project and its sub-awardees conducted thorough surveys to identify unvaccinated members, made door-to-door visits to counsel and convince hesitant members to complete their vaccination doses, and vaccine-related positivity debunking fears of severe side effects and fatality in the community. The Project set up easy-access vaccination camps in the slum areas and used traditional and cultural vehicles such as folk songs and nukkad nataks to engage the audience and put across pro-vaccine messaging more effectively.



Today, urban slums in Rajasthan have reached almost 100% vaccination record due to the untiring efforts of a dedicated task force of health workers and volunteers under the Project and its sub-awardees, duly supervised by the State Government.



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