USAID FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE

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Transforming Comprehensive Healthcare in India

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Saving lives. Improving health.
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NISHTHA's COVID-19 RESPONSE

Enhancing the preparedness of India's primary health care system

BACKGROUND

With a population of 1.3 billion, varying levels of health system preparedness across states and union territories, and densely populated settlements of urban poor with limited access to water, sanitation, and hygiene services, India is at particularly high-risk for large case numbers and high mortality during the global COVID-19 pandemic. Further, India is currently facing an unprecedented second wave of COVID-19 infections. The United States Agency for International Development (USAID) has been on the forefront of the COVID-19 response. As part of its global response, USAID has been helping countries across the world through the emergency health assistance from USAID's Global Health Emergency Reserve Fund for Contagious Infectious-Disease Outbreaks (ERF), including India to support its COVID-19 response.

NISHTHA: Transforming Comprehensive Healthcare in India

USAID's flagship health systems strengthening project NISHTHA, implemented by Jhpiego, aims to transform primary healthcare (PHC) in India to ensure that it is equitable, comprehensive, and client-centered and improves health outcomes for India's marginalized and vulnerable populations, especially women and girls. A well-resourced and well-equipped PHC will be better able to manage COVID- 19 and future public health threats. The cumulative funding support to NISHTHA is USD 27.4 million, of which a total of 12.4 million has been earmarked for COVID-19 response.
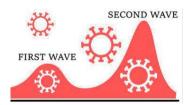
NISHTHA's COVID-19 PORTFOLIO

1. STRENGTHENING COVID-19 RESPONSE – PHASE I (April, 2020 – April, 2022)

USAID provided NISHTHA with COVID-19 ERF funding to provide need based technical assistance to strengthen the COVID-19 response at the national level and in the 13 project intervention states. NISHTHA will also extend need based technical support to non-intervention states through a Rapid Response Unit.

USD 2.4 Million

2. STRENGTHENING COVID-19 RESPONSE – PHASE II (May, 2021 – May, 2023)

As part of second phase of strengthening the COVID-19 Emergency Response, USAID provided a supplemental funding in May, 2021 which will build upon the project's current ERF mechanism to scale up and adapt the existing interventions across geographies based on the changing needs of the pandemic.
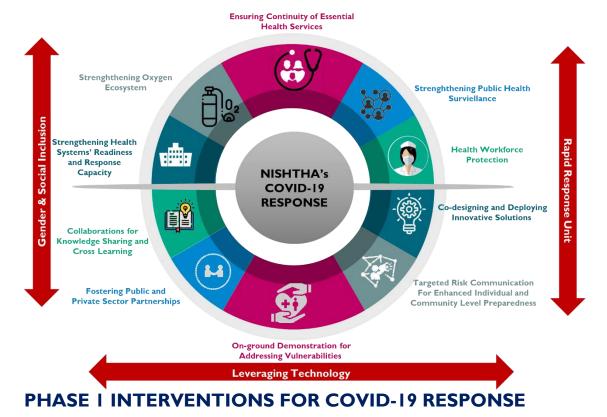
USD 5 Million

3. STRENGTHENING OXYGEN ECOSYSTEM (May, 2021 – April, 2022)

In April, 2021 when the country was hit with the unprecedented second wave of the pandemic, USAID provided another supplemental funding to NISHTHA for strengthening availability of medical oxygen in India.

USD 5 Million

NISHTHA'S TECHNICAL APPROACH

Ensuring Continuity of Essential Health Services

Strengthening Oxygen Ecosystem

Strengthening Public Health Surviellance

Strengthening Health Systems' Readiness and Response Capacity

Health Workforce Protection

Gender & Social Inclusion

Rapid Response Unit

NISHTHA's COVID-19 RESPONSE

Co-designing and Deploying Innovative Solutions

Collaborations for Knowledge Sharing and Cross Learning

Fostering Public and Private Sector Partnerships

Targeted Risk Communication For Enhanced Individual and Community Level Preparedness

On-ground Demonstration for Addressing Vulnerabilities

Leveraging Technology

PHASE 1 INTERVENTIONS FOR COVID-19 RESPONSE

Technical Assistance for National and State level governments for COVID-19 response

NISHTHA has supported national and state government for strengthening their COVID-19 response

- Part of state COVID rapid response committees in 8 intervention states
- Development of technical and operational guidelines such as framework for continuity of essential services (6 states), testing strategy for migrants (in Meghalaya), strategic guidance for containment zones (in Assam)
- Assessing and enhancing facility preparedness for setting up of dedicated COVID-19 facilities
- TA for strategic purchasing of care from private sector

Building Resilient Communities for Combatting COVID-19 in Chhattisgarh

To supplement efforts of the state government of Chhattisgarh to track returning migrants and screen them for COVID-19, NISHTHA engaged a local community-based organization for contact tracing of the migrant workers and building the resilience of the community to combat COVID-19 head on.

8	579	27,333	13,000	75,000
Tribal Districts	Villages	Migrants screened	PRI members trained	People reached

Creating Data analysis systems for Decision making in Maharashtra

In Maharashtra, a data analytics dashboard and a predictive modeling dashboard was created to help policy makers at the state level and across 36 districts to better understand the trend and status of COVID-19 cases at a glance which will help them make evidence-based decisions on preparedness of health care facilities, areas for rigorous testing and other preventive measures against COVID-19.

Leveraging Technology for Continuity of Services in Nagaland

At the core of NISHTHA's interventions is to ensure the continuity of essential health services even during a pandemic. In view of this, NISHTHA supported the state of Nagaland, a remote and tribal state in India by setting a telemedicine platform to reach the last mile.

11	189	1,900,000
Districts	**Health and Wellness Centers**	**Population**

Tapping on Alternate Communication Platforms to Reach the Unreached

To fight the pandemic, it is important to equip the communities with the right information at the right time. In view of this, NISHTHA developed an alternate medium of communication through an IVRS based communication platform – NISHTHA Swasthya Vaani where key messages on COVID-19 and other social protection schemes were disseminated in four districts of Madhya Pradesh and one district of Jharkhand.

2	343,171	57,311	974,872
States	**Calls**	**Unique Users**	**Minutes of information heard**

Leveraging Technology for Enhanced Surveillence

NISHTHA supported the states of Chhattisgarh and Jharkhand in active monitoring of persons affected by COVID-19 using Interactive Voice Response (IVR) based technology. This IVR system is primarily for persons under home quarantine, persons in home isolation and patients who have been discharged from hospitals post recovery from COVID-19. The IVR will follow up with people under home quarantine and home isolation for early identification of symptoms of COVID-19 and enable the right care at the right time for better health outcomes.

2	83,789	7,000
States	**People followed up for symptoms**	**People connected with appropriate healthcare**

Enhancing Health System Accountability through Patient Feedback mechanism in Chhattisgarh

The state government of Chhattisgarh set up district home isolation cells across the state to strengthen the triaging of COVID-19 positive patients. NISHTHA designed a patient feedback mechanism for strengthening quality of care of COVID-19 patients placed under home isolation with an aim to enhance accountability of health systems and to improve system's responsiveness

27	70,716
Districts	**Patients provided feedback**

Development of e-learning management system for empowering CHOs

To equip the **CHOs** with the right knowledge and skills, **NISHTHA** has designed an e-learning management system named i-Learn with blend of self and facilitated learning for improving and learning new skills in clinical and non-clinical areas.

- **Open source platform**
- **Just in time mentoring mechanism**
- **Targeted to enroll 10,000 CHOs**
- **Technical skills around CPHC and COVID**

Technnology enabled capacity building of Health Workforce for COVID-19

NISHTHA built the capacities of various cadres of health workforce as part of **COVID-19** response leveraging technology platforms using a hub and spoke approach. **NISHTHA** developed various learning resource packages on Clinical protocols of COVID-19 management, Anti-stigma and discrimination, Mental health, Care of elderly, Testing protocols for antibody & antigen testing of COVID- 19, COVID appropriate behavior and Post COVID care.

35,932 Health workers trained

Risk Communication and Community Engagement Efforts

NISHTHA has been one of the first movers in the risk communication efforts during the pandemic and is a part of the Ministry's partner group on risk communications for COVID-19. NISHTHA risk communication efforts adapted based on the evolving needs of the pandemic. Multiple mediums were tapped on including print, audiovisual, social and digital means of communication for disseminating messages on COVID-19. The risk communication materials developed by **NISHTHA** have been adopted by nine states and are uploaded on the national COVID-19 repository of NITI Aayog website (*https://www.indiafightscovid.coml/*).

4,217,124 People reached

OUR REACH

54

Million people reached through NISHTHA's COVID-19 Response*
* Data as of April 30, 2021

FUNDS LEVERAGED

428,703 USD

Domestic resources leveraged for further strengthening COVID 19 response*

OUR PARTNERS

Apart from national and state government stakeholders, following are our existing strategic partners including technology partners, implementation partners and knowledge management and cross learning partners.

For more information please contact Dr. Swati Mahajan, Chief of Party (Swati.Mahajan@jhpiego.org / IN-Nishtha@jhpiego.org). Follow us on Twitter @USAID_NISHTHA