A Historic Initiative of Government of Assam
A special initiative for tea garden workers

Assam has earned the distinction of being the highest tea producing state in the country, contributing to 51% of the total production of tea. India's share in the world tea market is 28%, and the tea production in Assam plays an important role. India is also the fourth largest exporter of tea in the world. This has been made possible due to the persistence and skill of the tea garden workers, who form the backbone of the tea growing industry.

But the socio-economic and health conditions of the tea garden workers paint a dismal picture, one that is characterized by deprivation and denial. The Assam Human Development Report (2013) indicates that the health status of tea garden laborers is much below the state average, with the state itself languishing at the bottom of the table. Tea garden laborers constitute 20% of the population of Assam and yet remain the most neglected section of Assam with low wages, poor housing and health infrastructure threatening their prospects of social mobility.

As per Sample Registration System (2011-13), Assam tops the list of Maternal Mortality Ratio (MMR) in India with 300 per 1 lakh live births, which is almost double the national average of MMR. The Infant Mortality Ratio (IMR) of Assam is 49 per 1000 live births against national average of 39. The intra-regional variations are significant. Annual Health Survey (2010-12) illustrates this by pointing out to rates of MMR, which ranges from 404 in Upper Assam to as low as 251 in Lower Assam. Upper Assam has the highest concentration of tea gardens and hence, tea garden laborers. Studies conducted among tea garden workers have pointed to anaemia, hypertension, malnutrition and diarrhoea as the causes of high maternal and infant deaths. The figures point to the abysmal record of Assam in providing quality health care services.

The Plantation Labour Act (1951) has made it mandatory for every tea garden in Assam to have a health centre with adequate facilities. This is in conjunction with Goal 3 of Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) which calls for “ensuring healthy lives and well-being for all at all ages”. Provision of health facilities for workers thus becomes an important component for sustaining the pulse of a very important economic activity in India.

In a bid to improve the health indicators of the tea garden population, the state of Assam has devised a unique concept of Mobile Medical Units (MMU) under Public Private Partnership (PPP), 486 tea gardens without adequate health care facilities and man power support were chosen to be covered under this initiative. Each MMU will be stationed at a tea garden for a week, thus covering 80 tea gardens in a week and 320 in a month. The MMUs are equipped with highly qualified medical team, comprising of Medical officer, Nursing staff, pharmacist, lab technician and Ophthalmic technician and offer an array of medical services ranging from reproductive and maternal health to behavior change communication services.

There is also an effective monitoring mechanism put in place to ensure result-oriented implementation of the programme which will eventually be successful in creating an impact on health indicators of tea garden workers. HLFPPT has been selected as Private Implementation Partner under PPP and we are making our best endeavor to make it a grand success.

R P Khandelwal
Chairman, HLFPPT
A Historic Initiative of Government of Assam

Union Health Minister Launches Historic "MMU" Project in Assam

Hon'ble Union Health Minister, Shri J P Nadda, launched 'Mobile Medical Units (MMUs) - Assam', a historic healthcare project that is aimed at 'improving healthcare service delivery & health outcomes in underserved areas of the state' in Guwahati on 20th June, 2017. Hon'ble Chief Minister of Assam, Shri Sarbananda Sonowal; Hon'ble Health Minister of Assam, Dr Himanta Biswa Sarma; along with Shri Sunil Kumar Sinha (IAS), Principal Secretary, Health & Family Welfare Department, Govt of Assam; Shri JVN Subramanyam (IAS), Mission Director, NHM-Assam; Dr AC Baisya, Executive Director, NHM-Assam, and other senior officials of NHM graced the occasion with their valuable presence.

Under the signature project, the State Health Society, National Health Mission (NHM) Assam and HLFPTT have entered into a landmark agreement to operationalise 130 MMUs in PPP mode. These MMUs shall provide primary & selective secondary healthcare services & medicines to nearly 26 lakh population in about 2,600 villages spread across all districts of Assam.

All 130 MMUs shall be maintained and operated by HLFPTT, with funding support from State Health Society, NHM-Assam. This includes operationalisation of 80 Tea Garden MMUs that shall cater to the health needs of tea garden population and another 50 MMUs for the general population of the state.
Finding Funding Alternatives

As India's healthcare sector stands at the crucial juncture of funding gap from global agencies, voluntary bodies need to devise a new wave of funding, based on self-sustainable models of development.

Reaching out to 1.3 billion people with quality health solutions is a mammoth task for the public healthcare sector in India, more so, as it is confronted by the diversities of terrain, culture, geographies, socio-economic status, varying health needs & awareness levels of its people.

Access to capital for healthcare projects at such a large & diversified magnitude has always been a major roadblock for the sector. Although the government is still the largest contributor in development (as per Bain's 'India Philanthropy Report 2017', the government spent INR 1.5 trillion in the development sector in 2016), concern persists as India's public healthcare spending has never been more than 1-2 percent of its GDP. Funding challenges for the healthcare sector have been further accentuated with the withdrawal of some leading international donor agencies in recent years.

To add to these mammoth challenges is the increasing global thrust on 'Universal Health Coverage' (UHC) with the World Health Assembly and the United Nations General Assembly urging nations to urgently & significantly scale up efforts for transition towards UHC. Further, UHC has gained global momentum with its inclusion as a target under Goal 3 of UN-mandated Sustainable Development Goals.

Amidst the ongoing funding crisis, the Bain report estimates that India will be short by INR 33 trillion if it's to achieve its SDGs by 2030. India's healthcare sector has reached at a juncture where it needs to find non-conventional funding alternatives to meet its global commitments. Devising a new wave of funding is also the need for voluntary health organisations, such as HLFPP, that have conventionally relied on donor agencies for funding support.

Individual fundraising is one such feasible option for bridging the funding gap. Bain's Report suggests that individual donors are increasingly claiming their share in the funding pie (in 2016, they comprised 32% of total contributions to development, up from 15% in 2011).

Secondly, health organisations and the government may seek public private partnership (PPP) channels to strengthen financing & delivery of healthcare. PPP has been increasingly creating an impact, shifting the role of the government as a giver to more of a facilitator.

Thirdly, we need to leverage technology to deliver quality of care and shift focus on preventive healthcare for reducing costs. By doing so, additional healthcare costs can be significantly reduced by USD 90 billion, as against USD 245 billion required by 2034 if we go by conventional funding methods, estimates a report on 'Funding Indian Healthcare' by NATHEALTH & PwC.

Moreover, voluntary bodies need to design ingenious interventions that have the potential to generate funds for their sustainance without external support. Such self-sustaining models, based on transparency and accountability, will shape healthcare delivery & funding in the future.

Sharad Agarwal
CEO, HLFPP
Kerala Health Minister Launches Mobile Medical Unit

HLFPP has been entrusted the additional responsibility of operating a new Mobile Medical Unit (MMU) dedicated to tribal population in the resettlement area (Aralam Farm) in Kannur district, Kerala. Smt K K Shailaja Teacher, Minister for Health and Social Justice, Government of Kerala, launched the MMU at Aralam Farm in June. This new MMU shall be supported by Integrated Tribal Development Project, under the Tribal Development Department, Govt of Kerala. With this, HLFPP shall now be operating a total of 8 MMUs in the state (4 with support from the Scheduled Caste Development Dept, 3 with support from the Scheduled Tribe Development Dept and 1 with support from the Tribal Development Dept of the State Govt).

Fisherwomen Skill Development Project Enters Phase II

After successful completion of Phase I of the project in the last 2 years, HLFPP has launched Phase II of 'Theeramaipunya' Project for boosting job skills of educated young fisherwomen in Kerala. The project is assisted & funded by the Society for Assistance to Fisherwomen (SAF), Department of Fisheries, Govt of Kerala. The course comprises one month of Classroom Training (on job skills, personality development, communication skills, leadership skills, decision making skills, entrepreneurship development skills, etc) and one month of on-the-job Training at reputed organisations.

New Fundraising Project Added on Global Giving

HLFPP has uploaded a new project titled, 'Saving Mothers & Babies with Lifesaving Tools' on leading online crowd-sourcing platform - Global Giving. Through individual fundraising, the project aims to provide quality simulation-based healthcare training to Health Service Providers (HSPs) and also provide innovative, lifesaving medical tools to health facilities in low-resource settings for enhancing their quality of care. Under this project, HLFPP has partnered with Laerdal Medical India Private Ltd. HLFPP has been utilising the online fundraising platform for two other projects, namely 'Safe Pregnancy for 500 Poor Women in Indi' and 'Support Poor Couples to Access Family Planning'.

SAMVAD July 2017
PARTICIPATION

CEO Addresses Consultation Workshop

HLFPPT CEO, Mr Sharad Agarwal, addressed audience at Consultation Workshop of Stakeholders for Implementation of MMUs (Mobile Medical Units) in Tea Garden Areas held at Guwahati on 3rd May, 2017. The workshop was jointly organised by the Department of Health & Family Welfare, Government of Assam, and the National Health Mission Assam. The audience comprised key stakeholders including Tea Garden Associations, Labour Unions, Health Experts, Line Departments, District Administrations, Development Partners, etc.

3rd Annual GES Offers a Platform to HLFPPT

HLFPPT, along with its parent organisation – HLL Lifecare Ltd, participated in the 3rd Global Exhibition of Services (GES), held at Greater Noida during 17th-20th April, 2017. Organised by the Ministry of Commerce & Industry, the exhibition was inaugurated by the Hon'ble President of India, Shri Pranab Mukherjee at Rashtrapati Bhavan. GES offers a global platform for increasing trade in services, enhancing strategic cooperation and strengthening multilateral relationships between all stakeholders. Other prominent participants at the Exhibition included Medanta, Ola App, NHP, & various divisions of MoHFW such as NCD, AYUSH, etc.

HLFPPT Sets Record under Project AHANA

Bihar State AIDS Control Society has reported a record-breaking rise in HIV screening of pregnant women by HLFPPT, whereby more than 8.7 lakh pregnant women in the state have undergone HIV Screening in FY 2016-17. Credit for this feat goes to the relentless efforts by team HLFPPT under Project AHANA that is aimed at increasing uptake of PPTCT (Prevention of Parent to Child Transmission) services among pregnant women. It has enabled a record-breaking rise in HIV Testing among expectant mothers from 5,008 in FY 2015-16 to 3 lakh in FY 2016-17 at FICTCs (Facilitated Integrated Counselling & Testing Centres) and from 3.9 lakh to 5.7 lakh in ICTCs (Integrated Counseling & Testing Centres) in the state.
HLFPPT Bags Award for 'Outstanding Team Growth'

The final learning lab of the project Read to Kids – a literacy project by Pearson & Worldreader, implemented by HLFPPT along with other partners – was conducted in the last week of April. Team HLFPPT was awarded with the ‘Outstanding Team Growth’ throughout the project. Team member Shalini Rai received the ‘Best Activator’ award across all the partners as well Best Activator among the in-house team. The success of the project shows the amount of effort and the fabulous response that we received from the community.

HEALTH CAMP

Health Camp Held at Merrysilver Clinic, Gurgaon

In order to reach the underserved communities with free medical services, HLFPPT organised a health camp at Merrysilver Clinic in DLF Phase I, Gurgaon, on 21st June, 2017. A team comprising General Physician, Gynaecologist, ANM, Lab Technician & clinic assistant provided medical services including – General health check-up, Gynaecological consultation & check-up, Blood Sugar test, Haemoglobin test, Information about Family Planning Methods and Counselling on Family Planning & general healthcare – and distributed free medicines. This was done under Merrysilver Clinics – a CSR Project by DLF Foundation. Under the project HLFPPT has been managing six Health Centres in Gurgaon – at DLF City Phase I, DLF City Phase II & at four villages (Sikanderpur Ghosi, Nathupur, Kanhai & Chakkarpur).

Mega Health Awareness Event Held in UP

A Mega Health Awareness Event, focusing on Women’s Health, was organised at Purshai Nag Gram Panchayat in Mohanlalganj Block, Lucknow district, UP on 25th March, 2017. This was done under CSR Projects by DLF Foundation - Amrit Corner & Amrit MMU. The event had two components – Health Check-up Camp and a Cultural Evening for health awareness, whereby some local NGOs also participated in awareness generation activities. The theme of the Cultural Programme was 'Khushaal Parivar ka Hai Nishaan, Swastha Mahila Swasth Sastaan'. Specialised health check-up services were rendered for women & children and general health check-ups including blood pressure, diabetes and other seasonal ailments were done for all. Family Planning Counseling and Godhara ceremony of pregnant women were major highlights of the event. Total 167 clients had turned in the Health Camp.

Amrit MMU Organises Mega Health Camp

Over 400 people received free health check-up & medicines and nearly 20 children received immunisation at a Mega Health Camp held at Raiyakhem village, Mau, near Garden City Project, Lucknow (UP) in June 2017. This was organised as part of DLF Foundation Community Health Outreach Activity under its CSR Project, Amrit MMU, being implemented by HLFPPT.
Workshop on Menstrual Hygiene Project

A workshop on deliberation of information and generate evidence-based business model for Improving Sanitary Napkin Production Units (SNPUs) of Panchayat Udyog in Uttar Pradesh was held at Lucknow in January 2017. Hosted by Panchayat Udyog, the workshop witnessed participations from Panchayat Udyog Officials, government officials, representatives from SNPUs, along with representatives from UNICEF & HLFPPT. Spokespersons included: Amit Gupta, Mission Director – Swachh Bharat Mission; Yogendra Katiyar, Nodal Person – Swachh Bharat Mission; Sanjay Singh Chauhan, State Consultant – Swachh Bharat Mission. Representatives from HLFPPT shared key findings of Assessment Study conducted on SNPUs that highlighted major challenges of SNPUs and scope for improvement.

Advocacy Meeting for Women Living with HIV

HLFPPT’s Project Vihaan Team and Chhattisgarh State AIDS Control Society (CGSACS) conducted successful State Level Advocacy Meeting with Social Welfare Department, Govt of Chhattisgarh, in Raipur on 27th April, 2017. The purpose of the meeting was to provide financial assistance in terms of widow pension to all PLHIV (People Living with HIV) infected women, irrespective of their APL and DPL status. Moreover, it was decided to provide some financial and nutritional support to Children Living with HIV/AIDS (CLHIV) from the department. It was also suggested by the department and CGSACS to map all the infected CLHIV in their respective CSCs and provide them existing nutritional support by the Women and Child Development Department.

SPECIAL DAYS

Workshops, Rallies & Awareness Events Mark World TB Day

Project Vihaan Team in Rajasthan observed World Tuberculosis Day on 24th March, 2017 based on WHO theme of ‘Unite to end TB’ to generate awareness about the epidemic and efforts to eliminate the disease. At state level, an interactive session was organised by HLFPPT at ART Centre, Jaipur, whereby doctors from ARTC spoke about TB, its causes, treatment and diagnosis and shared one window system for PLHIV 99 DOTS. Some PLHIV who had successfully recovered from TB shared their experiences. Various activities, workshops, rallies, community consultations and pamphlets & IEC material distribution were held at district level. In Siroa, Vihaan team observed TB week with awareness activities at railway station & bus stand and increased case referrals for TB examination. CSCs at Alwar, Jodhpur, Barmer & Bhilwara organised awareness rally with the slogan ‘TB Harega, Desh Jeetega’ in coordination with District TB Department.

Yoga Day Celebrated across UP & Kerala

HLFPPT celebrated Yoga Day 2017 on 21st June at its Skill Training Centres in UP and Kerala. To mark the occasion, an event was organised at Model Skill Centre at Panki, Kanpur (UP) under HLFPPT’s Skill Development Programme. In Kerala, Shri Harikishore (IAS), Executive Director Kudumbashree and Mission Director, NULM, inaugurated Yoga Day function at HLFPPT’s Skill Training School, Thiruvananthapuram.
New Pledges on World Population Day 2017

Shri J P Nadda, Hon’ble Union Minister of Health & Family Welfare, GoI, addressing audience at National Workshop on ‘Parivar Niyojan - Sashakt Samaj, Rastra ka Vikas’ organised by the Ministry of Health & Family Welfare, GoI, and Jansankhya Shishrata Kosh at Vigyan Bhawan, New Delhi on World Population Day 2017

HLFPPT spread awareness on World Population Day 2017 with much fanfare by participating at national as well as state level events and also organising special campaigns under its programmes

“India plays a very crucial and critical role in global efforts towards population stabilisation,” said Shri J P Nadda, Union Minister of Health and Family Welfare on World Population Day 2017 (11th July). He was addressing audience at National Workshop on ‘Parivar Niyojan - Sashakt Samaj, Rastra ka Vikas’ organised by the Ministry of Health & Family Welfare, GoI, and Jansankhya Shishrata Kosh (An autonomous body under MoHFW) to mark the World Population Day at Vigyan Bhawan in New Delhi. Smt Anupriya Patel, Minister of State (HFW) also graced the occasion.

The Hon’ble Minister launched new family planning initiatives, including Mission Parivar Vikas’ to focus on 146 districts in 7 states with high TFR (Total Fertility Rate). It shall have strategic focus on improving access through provision of services, promotional schemes, commodity security, capacity building, enabling environment and intensive monitoring. He also introduced the new injectable in the public health system under the ‘Antara’ programme and launched a new software – Family Planning Logistics Management Information System (FP-LMIS) – designed to provide robust information on the demand and distribution of contraceptives to health facilities and ASHAs to strengthen supply chain management.

“We have enhanced the basket of contraceptive choices to meet the changing needs of people and have taken steps to ensure quality assured services and commodities are delivered to the last-mile consumers in both rural and urban areas,” stated the Hon’ble Minister.

Also present at the function were Shri R K Vats, Additional Secretary & Director General, Smt Vandana Gumani, Joint Secretary, Reproductive Child Healthcare and Smt Preeti Nath, Executive Director, Jansankhya Shishrata Kosh, along with other senior officers of the Ministry and representatives of development partners. As a committed development partner working towards the national health goals, HLFPPT participated at the Workshop.

At state level too, HLFPPT aligned with the Government of Uttar Pradesh and the National Health Mission-UP, to participate in a fortnight of special events organised for World Population Day. The inaugural programme was held in Lucknow on 11th July, 2017 where Shri Yogendra Yadav, Hon’ble Chief Minister of UP, flagged off an Awareness Rally. The mega rally witnessed enthusiastic participation from school children, college students & nursing college students, Font Line Health Workers, entire state health administration, along with State Health Partners and NGOs including HLFPPT.

HLFPPT was among leading partners of organising this grand event which was a joint effort of sensitisation towards stabilisation of population control programme with the Govt of UP & the National Health Mission. During the fortnight, sound bytes by religious leaders on the significance of family planning were broadcast on Radio (FM channel – Radio City). Also, hoardings were installed at prominent places, including outside the Chief Minister’s residence in Lucknow city, which were the key catching areas of the event.

Moreover, HLFPPT’s Skill Development team conducted Awareness Rally in Sitapur, UP. GDA (General Duty Assistant) students of Skill Centre Sitapur participated in the event.

In Bihar, HLFPPT with Laerdal Global Health marked World Population Day 2017 at Patna Medical College & Hospital (PMCH), Patna, with counselling on Family Planning & antenatal check-ups.
Glimpses of World Population Day Celebrations

Shri Yogi Adityanath, Hon’ble Chief Minister of UP, flags off WPD 2017 celebrations in Lucknow. HLFPPT, along with other development partners, participated in various WPD events held over a fortnight in the state.

HLFPPT Team participated at the mega awareness rally held in Lucknow on 11th July.

HLFPPT’s Skill Development team conducts Awareness Rally in Sitapur, UP. GDA (General Duty Assistant) students of Skill Centre Sitapur participate in the event.

Shri JP Nadda, Hon’ble Union Health Minister, along with Smt Anupriya Patel Hon’ble Union Minister of State for Health & Family Welfare; Shri R K Vats, Additional Secretary & Director General; Smt Vandana Gormani, Joint Secretary; Reproductive Child Healthcare; & Smt Preeti Nath, Executive Director; Jansankhya Shishita Kosh, unveil State Factsheet ‘Mission Parivar Vikas’ Strategy, Posters for enhanced awareness on Family Planning, and Injectable Contraceptives under Antara Programme’ at the National Workshop.

HLFPPT Team spread messages on Family Planning and Population Stabilisation among the masses on WPD 2017 in UP.

On WPD 2017, Shikha Singhal, Programme Manager-KMD at HLFPPT, shares her opinion on ‘Family Planning in India’ during a Panel Discussion at Doordarshan Bihar Live Show – Swasthya Jeevan. She shared the dias with Dr Abha Rani Sinha, President Patna Obs. and Gynaec Society.

HLFPPT with Laerdal Global Health mark WPD 2017 at PMCH, Patna in Bihar, with counselling on Family Planning & antenatal check-ups.
HINDUSTAN LATEX FAMILY PLANNING PROMOTION TRUST (HLFPPT)
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