



Project ASPIRE

Telangana



Third Quarterly Report | July-September 2022



Project ASPIRE: Quarterly Report July – September 2022

Table of contents:

I. Project Overview	01
II. Key Highlights	02
III. Major Activities	03
IV. Stories from the field	09
V. Learnings, Challenges, and Plans for next quarter	11

Project Overview:

India is a major contributor to the global burden of non-communicable diseases (NCDs) that constitute a major public health challenge impacting both social and economic development. In the year 2014, at least 60% of the total deaths recorded were estimated to be caused by NCDs. To address this, People-to-People Health Foundation (PPHF) proposes to strengthen the NCD service delivery at the primary healthcare level. PPHF is working on an integrated approach for the prevention, early detection, and capacity building for tackling NCDs. PPHF, with the support of the Telangana state government, National Health Mission (NHM) and Sanofi India, is working towards strengthening healthcare services like prevention, health promotion, early detection, and management of NCDs and their risk factors. As part of its efforts to strengthen the NCD service delivery PPHF is working at the urban primary healthcare level to reduce morbidity and mortality due to NCDs.

Target beneficiaries:

- ✧ All adults aged 30 years and above
- ✧ Health care workers in urban health care centres

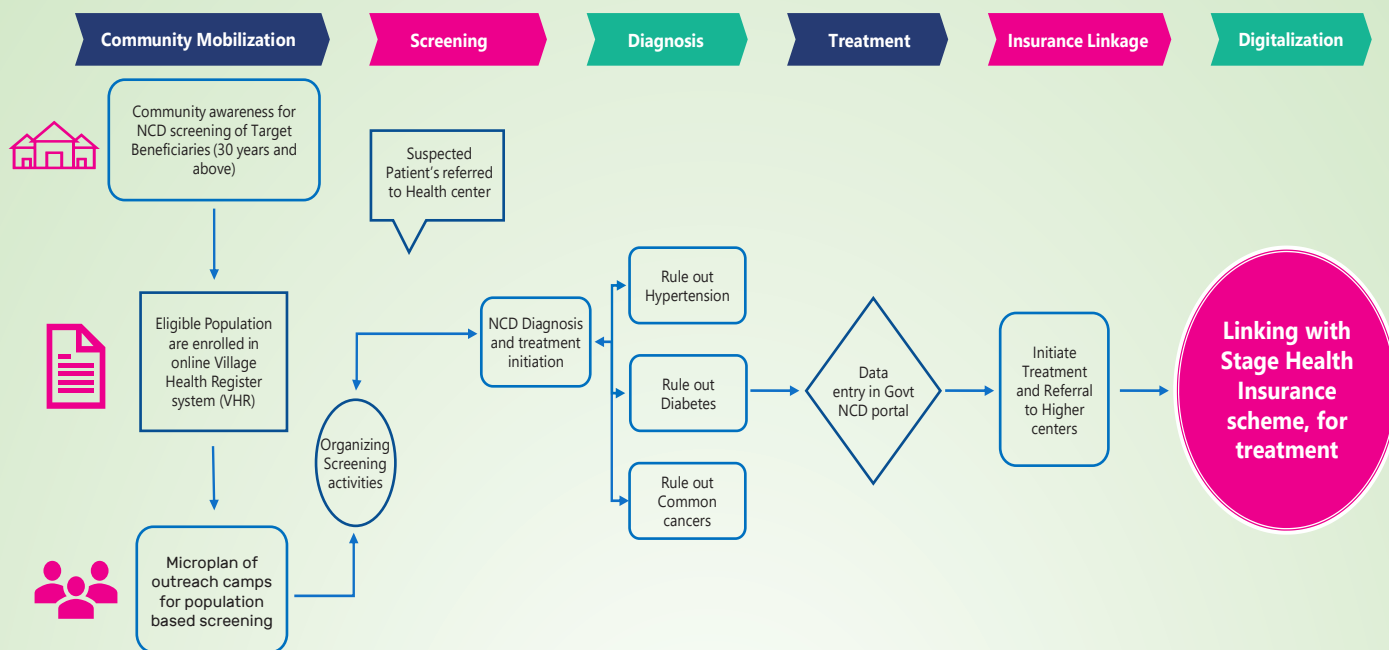
Objectives:

- ✧ Build the capacity of the UPHC health teams to deliver essential NCD services
- ✧ Enable increased public awareness of NCDs through health education and promotion related to critical health issues in the community
- ✧ Strengthen the implementation of NCD population-based screening (PBS) guidelines at the UPHC
- ✧ Establish linkages between Aarogya Sri Insurance schemes for improving treatment adherence

Intervention sites:

Project site I: Two primary healthcare centres (UPHC Kukatpally and UPHC Moosapet)

Project site II: 52 Basti Dawakhanas (BDKs) of Medchal District



PPHF Non Communicable Disease Program Implementation Flow

Figure 1: Program intervention plan at the intervention site

Key Highlights:

- ✧ Total 1,61,030 people enrolled in the Village Health Registry (VHR)
- ✧ Total 1,44,652 people screened and 37,355 women underwent breast and cervical cancer screening
- ✧ Total 185 outreach camps conducted at Medchal-Malkajgiri
- ✧ Total 22 cervical cancer screening camps conducted at centres of Medchal-Malkajgiri
- ✧ Total 191 health care workers underwent different need-based NCD trainings
- ✧ Total 41 Community Mobilizers attended refresher training on July 27th, 2022
- ✧ Total 90 Staff Nurses attended NCD refresher training on August 25th & 26th, 2022
- ✧ Total 60 medical officers attended NCD refresher training on September 8th, 2022

NCD	Number of people screened	Number of people suspected and referred to PHC	Number of people diagnosed and under treatment in govt facility
Diabetes	144652	26130	9203
Hypertension	144652	42860	14591
Breast cancer	37355	1045	6
Cervical cancer	37355	9	3
Oral cancer	144652	757	15

(Source: State NCD portal from July 1st 2022 till September 30th, 2022)

Major activities during Quarter 3 (2022)

1. Capacity Building of Health Teams on NCDs

I. NCD Refresher training for staff nurses:

Need: The refresher training was conducted to enhance the skills and capabilities of staff nurses and MOs in Medchal – Malkajgiri.

Specific activity: On 25th and 26th August, NCD refresher training was conducted for staff nurses at UPHC Balanagar & UPHC Uppal, respectively.

Process: A group message was sent to all the participants to notify them about the venue, date, and training time. Initially, we had conducted a pre-assessment test based on which a discussion-based training was conducted by Dr. Raghunath Swamy. Dr. Mounika (State Program Manager, PPHF) then addressed questions from the trainees. After completion of the session, post-training assessment was conducted.

Outcome: A total of 90 staff nurses attended the session in two batches of 45 each over the period of two days consequently. The average of pre- and post-assessment scores were 78% and 92% respectively, with a median score of 11 and 14 signifying an increase in knowledge and understanding how to provide and deliver care.

Glimpses of Refresher Training of staff nurses at UPHC Balanagar & Uppal



NCD Refresher training for medical officers

Need: Refresher Training is to update and improve the knowledge and skills on non-communicable diseases (prevention, screening, diagnosis, referral and treatment).

Specific activity: On 8th September, 2022 NCD refresher training was conducted for medical officers at UPHC Uppal.

Process: The refresher training was organized with the help of District NCD cell for staff nurses and medical officers. CMHO of Medchal, Dr, Raghunath Reddy (DPO of NCD) was invited as a guest speaker to provide training on NCDs at UPHC Uppal.

Outcome: A total of 60 medical officers attended the session. The average of pre- and post- assessment median scores were 82% and 94% respectively, with a median score of 12 and 15 signifying an increase in knowledge and understanding how to provide and deliver care.

Glimpse of Refresher Training of staff nurses at UPHC Uppal



Refresher training for Community Mobilizers

Need: The PPHF state team organized a physical meeting to refresh the knowledge and skills of volunteers on NCD awareness delivery and screening. Awareness for cervical cancer screening was stressed upon.

Specific activity: PPHF, with the help of Magna Carta Foundation scheduled an interaction with 41 attendees including the PPHF state team, Dr. Vijaya from Magna Carta Foundation, and volunteers of Medchal – Malkajgiri District at Bharat Nagar community hall on July 26th, 2022.

Process: A group message was sent to all the participants to notify them about the venue, date, and training time. The team conducted a

pre-assessment test initially. Training on cervical cancer awareness delivery was demonstrated by Dr. Mounika (SPM, PPHF) and Dr. Vishali (MEL Officer-PPHF). Dr. Vijaya and Dr. Mounika addressed the questions from the trainees. A post-training assessment was carried out after the session

Outcome: A total of 41 Community mobilizers attended the session. It was observed that there was an increase in their knowledge and understanding. The average pre- and post-assessment scores were 81% and 90% with median score of 13 and 16, respectively, signifying an increase in the knowledge and understanding how to provide and deliver care.

Refresher Training of Community Mobilizers Bharat Nagar Community Hall



Outreach Camps

Need: To increase the screening and to reach the targets, the state NCD cell initiated outreach screening camps for hard-to-reach areas of urban slums.

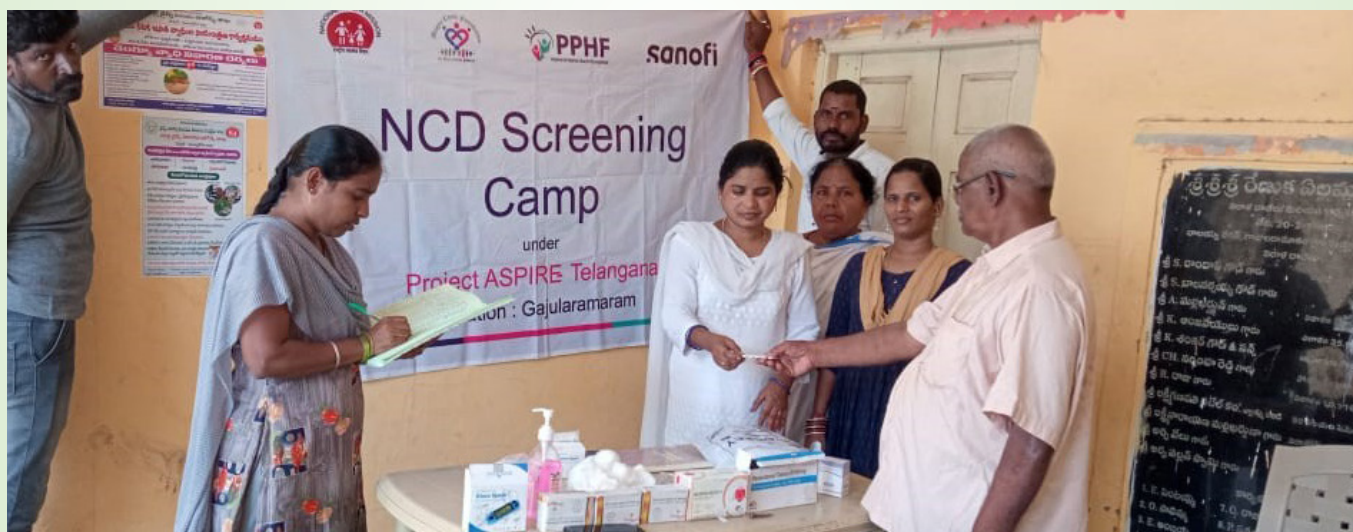
Specific activity: The district NCD Cell, with the help of PPHF and Magna Carta Foundation, organized two outreach camps on Tuesday and Thursday of every week at BDks and two UPHCs at Medchal-Malkajgiri. The team of the outreach camp included a medical officer, NCD staff and a community mobilizer (PPHF).

Process: A day prior to the outreach camp, all community mobilizers conducted house-to-house visits and informed them about the nearby camp site and services provided. On the day of the camp, mobilizers collected information of

patients recording their age, sex and Aadhar numbers to upload in the Village Health registry (VHR). The blood pressure and blood glucose levels were monitored by the NCD staff nurse. If a patient was suspected to have any NCD, then the diagnosis, treatment, and referral (if needed) was managed by the medical officers. The screening data was entered in a state NCD portal by community mobilizers and the NCD staff nurse.

Outcome: A total of 185 outreach camps were conducted in this quarter. The screening numbers and data were entered in Telangana State NCD portal. The outreach camps have been suspended by the state government till further notice.

Outreach camps at Subhash Nagar BDK, Gajularamaram BDK and Hashmathpet BDK



Outreach camp at Gajularamaram BDK



Outreach camp at Hashmathpet BDK



Outreach camp at Subhash Nagar BDK

Cervical Cancer Screening Camps

Need: To initiate cervical cancer screening and spread awareness in urban slums and hard-to-reach areas.

Specific activity: The District NCD Cell, with the help of PPHF and Magna Carta Foundation, organized 22 Cervical Cancer Screening camps across BDKs and UPHCs at Medchal-Malkajgiri. The team of the Cervical Cancer Screening camp includes a medical officer, NCD staff and a community mobilizer (PPHF).

Process: A day prior to the outreach camp, all community mobilizers conducted house-to-house visits and informed the women of the community about the Cervical Cancer Screening camp at nearest BDKs and UPHCs and services provided. On the day of the camp, mobilizers collected information of women recording their age and Aadhar numbers to upload in the Village Health registry (VHR). The screening for Cervical Cancer by VIA (Visual Inspection with Acetic Acid) method was performed by trained staff nurses and/or Lady Medical Officers. Suspected women were referred to higher centres for diagnosis by the medical officers. The screening data was entered in a state NCD portal by community mobilizers and the NCD staff nurse.

Outcome: A total of 22 Cervical Cancer Screening camps were conducted in this quarter in which 360 women were screened for cervical cancer and 13 women were referred.

Village Health Registration (VHR) Number

Need: The purpose of a Village Health Register is to make a permanent patient database of all residents who are residing in the catchment area and establish a linkage between insurance (Arogya Shree) and individuals for improving treatment adherence. Project ASPIRE aims to strengthen this provision.

Specific activity: Digitizing patient records through house-to-house surveys.

Process: At each intervention site, the community mobilizer/volunteer conducted a survey through house-to-house visits and recorded household information in the first half of the day. This activity included recording Aadhar details and the contact information of the members who are above 30 years. The mobilizer also engaged in a positive dialogue to encourage the target beneficiaries to visit the BDKs (intervention site) and get screened for NCDs under population-based screening. Post lunch, the volunteer entered this information

in the database supported by the NCD state portal. This stored data in the database ensured that community members migrating to another place in Telangana while undergoing treatment at the BDJs could still visit the nearest PHC by providing their Aadhar details or contact details to pull out the relevant health information, and continue their treatment. This process also minimizes the risk of duplication of services at the population level.

Outcome: At least 1, 61,030 population has been enrolled in VHR till the end of third quarter of 2022.

Community awareness call to action drive for screening

Need: NCDs are also known as chronic diseases that are of long duration and generally progress slowly slow causing complications that gradually lead to death. As a result they are also referred to as silent killers. To reduce mortality caused by NCDs, the state government has initiated

Population Based Screening (PBS) for early detection and treatment of the five targeted NCDs. For this to be successful, the community mobilizers who acts as ASHAs in a regular system must mobilize the beneficiaries and follow-up with them to ensure that they are seeking appropriate treatment.

Specific activity: The PPHF Community mobilizer in each facility supports the NCD staff nurse in educating, mobilizing and streamlining the screening activities, and provided support in digital entries of the NCD data in the state NCD application.

Outcome: A total of 1,44,652 individuals aged 30 and above were screened at 54 interventional sites. Indicator-wise details of National Programme for Prevention and Control of Cancer, Diabetes, Cardiovascular diseases and Stroke (NPCDCS) related activities are tabulated below. Data from July 1st to September 30th, 2022 was collected from Telangana State NCD Portal.

Project ASPIRE – Telangana

Condition	Number of people screened	Number of people suspected and referred to PHC	Number of people diagnosed and under treatment in govt facility
Diabetes	144652	26130	9203
Hypertension	144652	42860	14591
Breast cancer	37355	1045	6
Cervical cancer	37355	9	3
Oral cancer	144652	757	15

(Source: State NCD portal from July 1st to September 30th, 2022)

Stories from the field



“

I have high BP and blood sugar levels for which I used to visit a distant private hospital for regular monitoring and medicines. Recently I was informed about this nearby Basti Dawakhana by our area volunteer (PPHF Community Mobilizer). Now I get my check-up done here regularly. All the services are free. Today the doctor has told me that my BP & sugar levels are under control. I am particularly impressed with the punctuality of the staff here. I feel my time is valued here.

Ms. Aruna, 58 years old

Occupation: Homemaker (Husband runs a grocery shop)

Intervention site: Sharda Nagar BDK

Translated by Dr. Vishali from Telugu to English

”

“

I am T Raghavelu. I recently completed 80 years of age. I have been living in Valluvarnagar for a few years now. I was told about this Basti Dawakhana by the volunteers. Now, I take medications for my knee pain from this BDK as it is nearby, and the doctors also give me regular advice to take care of my health. The doctor and other staff listen to me patiently and medicines are also provided free of cost. Residents of this area are getting benefitted from this Basti Dawakhana.

Mr. T Raghavelu, 80 years old

Occupation: Self employed

Intervention site: Valluvarnagar BDK

Translated by Dr. Vishali from Telugu to English

”





“

The work of volunteers here in Anjaiahnagar is very good. Prior to coming here, we used to visit hospitals, which were far, and it used to be difficult for us. Now that the volunteers told us about the nearby Basti Dawakhana, we obtain our medicines and treatment here. Now it has become convenient for us than before.

Mr. Venkatesh, 31 years old

Occupation: Works at a shop

Intervention site: Anjaiahnagar

Translated by Dr. Vishali from Telugu to English

”

“

I live in Anjaiahnagar area. My husband had a long-standing painful lesion in his mouth. We did not know what caused it. After few days, volunteers came for door-to-door survey. They examined my husband's mouth and suggested us to consult doctors at Basti Dawakhana. We went there and they referred us to a bigger hospital. There we got to know that my husband was suffering from oral cancer. My husband underwent a surgery there and now we are taking regular treatment there for my husband. We are getting regular medicines from Basti Dawakhana.

Ms. Madhavi, 45 years old

Occupation: Homemaker

Intervention site: Hashmathpet BDK

Translated by Dr. Vishali from Telugu to English

”



Learnings, Challenges and Plans for next quarter

Challenges

How we address challenges and our learnings

Conflicts and ambiguity among the centre staff about the role and deliverables of community mobilizers. This resulted in situations where community mobilizers are asked to perform duties apart from NCD for which they aren't trained and oriented.

- ✧ To address this issue, the PPHF team routinely discusses the community mobilizer role throughout various trainings and visits to BDKs
- ✧ We also ensure smooth communication between the state, district and local team with the program team and community mobilizers.

Challenges faced in conducting cervical cancer screening.

By volunteers:

Women in urban slums are reluctant to get screened for cervical cancer.

By centre staff:

- ✧ Unavailable or expired acetic acid and other essentials at some centres.
- ✧ Under confidence among staff nurses and some MOs to conduct VIA screening.

- ✧ The community mobilizers are trained through various methods like role-play demonstrations, quizzes and the NPCDCS training manual to enable them to persuade and motivate the women to overcome the stigma and shame around breast and cervical cancer, and get screened.
- ✧ The PPHF team facilitated communication between MOs and District officials to ensure the availability of all the essentials and to arrange for training for VIA screening method for cervical cancer screening.

Technical issues: Frequent glitches in Telangana State NCD portal

- ✧ The PPHF team facilitated communication with the district officials to ensure smooth operation of the Telangana State NCD portal

Unavailability of centre staff as the post of NCD Staff Nurse in Medchal-Malkajgiri district was abolished by the state government from September 2022.

- ✧ The community mobilizers were instructed to intensify efforts to mobilise community members and encourage them to visit the centres and get their screening done by the medical officers.

Indifference within the community about NCDs Certain sections of the populations are indifferent towards the importance of screening of NCDs.

- ✧ The community mobilizers, through regular follow-up visits to such households have succeeded to a good extent in mobilizing them to visit their nearest BDKs and get screened.

Plan for the next quarter

- ✧ State Level TAG meeting
- ✧ Plan for VIA training of NCD staff nurses and medical officers
- ✧ Continue to conduct outreach camps with help of State NCD cell at interventional sites and establish a referral system during the outreach events
- ✧ Call-for-action drive to mobilize community members for screening activities
- ✧ Continue providing handholding support to the community mobilizers for data entry into the Telangana NCD state portal application
- ✧ Continue supporting the NCD Nodal Officer to conduct NCD field activities
- ✧ State level dissemination workshop for discussion on project end results
- ✧ Evidence generation through documentation of community mobilizer model for government NCD program implementation.
- ✧ Exploring technical solutions for real time monitoring of community mobilizers

ABOUT PPHF

PPHF is a non-profit organisation that works towards transforming lives for improved health and wellbeing through locally- driven solutions.

PPHF works closely with communities and key actors on sustainable solutions for public health challenges. These include :

1. Women, Adolescent and Child health
2. Non-Communicable Diseases

3. Nutrition
4. Infectious diseases- T.B, Malaria, COVID-19
5. Environmental Health

We focus on building public health capacity and community actions for better health outcomes. We work collaboratively with stakeholders, leveraging partnerships and influencing policies and practices.

Contributor:

People To People Health Foundation

Disclaimer

@PPHF India October 2022

This publication is protected by copyright guidelines but the text may be used free of charge for the purpose of policy advocacy, programme implementation, education and research, provided the source is rightfully acknowledged.

Contact us:

People to People Health Foundation

K-40, Third floor, Jangpura Extension, New Delhi 110014

Phone: 011-35121441 | Mobile: +91 98719 50708

E-mail: connect@pphfglobal.org | Web.: www.pphf.in

