

NEWSLETTER



EDITORIAL

Political and social turmoil, conflict, poverty, inequality and natural disasters continue to have calamitous consequences for the world's hungry. Today, in India, an estimated six million children

under five years of age suffer from severe acute malnutrition, the most life-threatening form of hunger. One million children die due to malnutrition related causes. But the resolve to act to address hunger has now been recognized politically worldwide with the world's governments agreeing on achieving 'zero hunger' by 2030.

At Fight Hunger Foundation, we know that hunger and under nutrition are preventable. We aim to restore the dignity and potential of people affected by hunger. Our programs currently reach out across the states of Maharashtra, Madhya Pradesh and Rajasthan, to over 3 Lakh members of the community of which about 36,000 are children under five years of age, who have directly received life saving treatment.

We are happy to report that in Madhya Pradesh where our teams have been working over the past three years, we have seen 29 villages declared as malnutrition free, and another 74 villages where the incidence of acute malnutrition has declined. There is hope in the future.

I have great pleasure in informing you that the Government of Jharkhand has invited us to launch a community based management of acute malnutrition (CMAM) program in some high burden districts in the State. We have also been advised by the Department of Women and Child Development, Govt of Maharashtra to scale up our projects in Palghar district that has been showing alarming incidences of malnutrition-related deaths.

We now look forward to 2017 with ambition to be at the forefront of bringing positive and lasting change in the lives of those affected by hunger. We endeavor to support households, local communities and national institutions to develop a long term sustainable approach to tackle malnutrition in children in India.

This issue of our newsletter will give you a glimpse at our upcoming projects, some successes and the key learning that will help us grow. I hope you enjoy going through the articles.

If you would like to make a personal or business donation to Fight Hunger Foundation, please get in touch with us at contact@fighthungerfoundation.org and we will be glad to assist you.

I thank you for being by our side and for your commitment to ending child malnutrition in India.

Ashwini Kakkar
Chairman

OUR PROJECTS

Baran, Rajasthan



It was a historic decision in December 2015 when the government of Rajasthan declared to pilot a CMAM program (Community based Management of Acute Malnutrition) in 13 high burden districts of the state. The honorable government recognized acute malnutrition in children as being a public health priority and therefore took this proactive step towards addressing this issue in the state.

FHF and ACF played a key role in designing the program concept, as we hold technical expertise and sound knowledge on implementing CMAM in different parts of the world.

We worked in close coordination with development agencies like GAIN and UNICEF to seamlessly execute this program.

The children were given therapeutic food and we saw a recovery rate of 88%, which indicated satisfactory results for the Government to take up this program on a larger scale across all the districts in the state.



1687 villages covered
- 234,000 children screened
- 9450 severely malnourished children enrolled

Besides the treatment of children, we trained 3,000 government functionaries such as medical officers and staff nurses on global protocols for effectively tackling malnutrition.

The government recognized our technical competence on the program and based on our performance in Rajasthan, the Government of Jharkhand has requested our technical support to implement a community based management of acute malnutrition in one district.

Burhanpur, Madhya Pradesh

As per a nutrition causal analysis done by us in 2014, the primary reason why children are malnourished in Madhya Pradesh are inadequate childcare practices like exclusive breastfeeding and inadequate hygiene practices leading to an unhealthy environment. Our program in Burhanpur emphasises on preventive measures such as awareness creation in the community and training the government frontline staff on identifying malnourished children and referring them to the nutrition rehabilitation centres.

We screen about 10,000 children every month and have trained 971 accredited social health activists, Anganwadi workers and Rashtriya Bal Swasthya Karyakram (RBSK) health workers on detecting malnutrition and referrals. All this has led to 38 villages (out of 79 villages) in the state to have become malnutrition free! Furthermore, about 70 villages (out of 149 villages) have reported a reduction in the incidences of malnourished children over the past 1 year.



- 38 out of 79 villages in MP have become malnutrition free

Palghar and Govandi, Maharashtra



Our Outpatient treatment centre in Govandi is fully operational. Our centre also sees over 60 pregnant women and over 700 lactating women come for regular screening and training.

Following government permission to train all Integrated Child Development Services

staff in Govandi, we trained about 136 staff on causes and treatment of malnutrition and on several indicators to measure and treat the same. A combination of theory and

practice sessions gave participants a clear understanding of malnutrition and how to tackle it effectively.

In Palghar, where Fight Hunger Foundation has established two outpatient treatment centres, more than 1500 children have been screened so far, with 357 of 538 wasted children being referred to the Outpatient Therapeutic Programme. In addition, in January 2017, we conducted a community based management of acute malnutrition orientation training for about 400 government service providers.

- More than 2400 children screened
- 37 severe acute malnourished children cured
- 4 severe and 17 moderate acute malnourished children cured without relapse

Baby Sheela on her way to recovery

Palghar, Maharashtra.



When our community mobilisers found eight month old baby Sheela (name changed) in Mokhada village in October 2016, they were shocked to see the blank gaze in her eyes. A child of her age should have been crawling on the floor, squeaking and babbling and putting random things in her mouth, with a glint of mischief in her eyes. Instead, here was this child, lying down, hardly moving her hands and legs, whining with a soft painful tone, unable to eat having lost her appetite due to severe acute malnutrition.

Her parents were poor labourers who could not

afford to take her to a health centre for treatment, for fear of losing out on a day's pay. Baby Sheela was soon wasting away and becoming critical.

Our field staff immediately took over the situation and counseled and convinced her family to take baby Sheela to our therapeutic treatment centre for providing therapeutic food that would restore Sheela's dimming appetite. Our team constantly followed up on her condition, making her parents aware of the need to provide her with nutrition and teaching her mother the magical impact that cuddling and baby massages would have on Sheela. With constant support from the community mobilisers, Sheela is now on her way to recovery!

More than 400 children have received treatment in our centre in Palghar. We have established two Outpatient Treatment Centers in Mokhada block in Palghar. We have also trained more than 370 Anganwadi and Accredited Social Health Activists (ASHAs) on community based management of acute malnutrition (CMAM).

Strengthening Anganwadi Centres Godrej Industries support revamp of 5 Anganwadis

A major concern in the district of Burhanpur, Madhya Pradesh is the lack of infrastructure in Anganwadi centres. Some of the buildings are not well maintained, the play area for children is often missing, there are not enough toys for children to play and some of the staff are sometimes unaware of their exact roles.

With the generous support of Godrej Industries, we could improve the infrastructure of five Anganwadi centers in Burhanpur and make them more child friendly, vibrant and packed with facilities that would encourage children and their mothers to regularly visit the Centres.

Looking at the new play area, the children are such a happy sight at the anganwadi. They now host regular fancy dress competitions and excitedly recite lines from their favourite poems on fruits, vegetables and on animals.

We thank and acknowledge the support by Godrej Industries and bringing cheer in the lives of children in Burhanpur.



Media Sensitization Workshop

Recognizing the media's role in raising awareness about malnutrition we organized a media sensitization workshop in Baran to provide participants with facts and good practices about the community based management of acute malnutrition program. The workshop was conducted by ACF-FHF advocacy team, GAIN, UNICEF and POSHAN program officials. They addressed the journalists' questions about malnutrition and motivated them to cover success stories along with the need to raise awareness about the prevention of malnutrition. The workshop also covered available government policies to help tackle malnutrition in the state. Journalists were given a clear picture about the present status of malnutrition, the most high burden villages and districts in the state and the best practices to help tackle the same.

Our Goodwill Ambassador



Renowned musician Sonu Nigam joined us as our Goodwill Ambassador and has recorded a song especially for us about our fight to end hunger in India. The anthem is titled 'Hope in the Future'. He said, "In my life I have supported lots of causes. And no foundation or no noble intent can work without mass participation". He urged people, despite their busy schedules, to join hands with causes like Fight Hunger Foundation.



World Food Day Gala Dinner for Fight Hunger Foundation

As part of United Nations' international World Food Day, we organized an event to unite like-minded people in their commitment to help end child hunger in India. Our goodwill ambassadors Sonam Kapoor and Sonu Nigam graced the occasion and showed us their tremendous support to our work, encouraging us to forge ahead in the fight against hunger. It was a spectacular night of music, poetry, some inspiring words for us. We showed two films about our work in Govandi and Madhya Pradesh. We also organized a live auction to raise funds for the organization from the several guests, who participated whole heartedly, making the evening a huge success! We thank each and every one of our guests and well-wishers for their support.

Thank you to our Corporate Partners!

We participated in the Standard Chartered Mumbai Marathon in January 2017 to raise awareness about our work. We were overwhelmed with support from more than 50 individual runners and corporate teams.

One of the largest turnout was by the corporate team of LeGrand, with about 40 employees running the Dream Run for Fight Hunger Foundation. Drums Food also supported us by running on behalf of Fight Hunger Foundation. The participants were very motivated and promised to continue this partnership for the next marathon as well.

We are very grateful for having been represented at the SCMM thanks to all our partners!



Fight Hunger Foundation would like to profoundly thank again its Founding Members.



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