



## BACKGROUND

The Antara Foundation (TAF) addresses maternal and child mortality and malnutrition, in active programs in the states of Madhya Pradesh and Chhattisgarh. TAF is built on a few core beliefs – strong partnership with government and frontline communities; scalable and sustainable innovations in public health delivery; health system strengthening; and bringing together learnings from the business and social sectors.

## OUR COVID-19 RESPONSE TO DATE

The COVID-19 pandemic has imposed a severe health and economic toll on already marginalized populations, be they migrant workers or rural families. Since the start of the pandemic in March 2020, Antara Foundation has supported the government's COVID-response efforts in our focus districts in Madhya Pradesh. We have –

- **Identified high risk:** Adapting our existing AAA<sup>1</sup> Platform, to identify and monitor COVID-19 high-risk individuals (e.g., infants, pregnant women, migrants, elders, people with co-morbidities).
- **Built frontline worker (FLW) capacity:** Technical training of FLWs on COVID-19 (virtual and on-site) on topics like generating awareness, identifying cases, contact tracing and addressing stigma.
- **Supported data and tracking:** Comprehensive checklists and monitoring formats (e.g., tracking migrant populations, population screening)
- **Continued critical maternal/child health services:** Ensuring continuity of critical maternal and child health services (e.g., immunizations, ante-natal checkups) through on-site handholding support, developing comprehensive checklists of protocols)



[Click to watch YouTube video \(3 min\)](#)

\* AAA refers to the three frontline health workers – ASHA worker (Accredited Social Health Activist), Anganwadi Worker and the Auxiliary Nurse Midwife – present in every village in India

**In 2020, our COVID-response efforts covered ~2 million people  
in over 2,000 villages, via a community of 2,600 FLWs**

During the current COVID surge in April 2021, we continue to build capacity of FLWs in Madhya Pradesh for COVID vaccination (e.g., screening, counselling, mobilizing village communities), awareness generation, and ensuring adherence to government safety protocols. Our work since March<sup>2</sup> –

- ~450 FLWs trained in virtual Zoom meetings, serving a population of >200,000 in two districts
- On-site support at vaccination sites and high case load delivery points (labor rooms) in four blocks
- We expect to train 2,500-3,000 FLWs, covering a population of >3 million in the next few months

### **THE ROAD AHEAD – COVID RESPONSE EFFORTS PLANNED IN 2021**

The next 6-12 months will be critical as India builds up public health services, rolls out one of the largest vaccinations drives in the world, mobilizes demand to overcome vaccine hesitancy and restores other critical health services. We must get pregnant women back on track with antenatal services, mothers and children with nutrition support and FLWs with equipment and training. Such public health system strengthening work is what the Antara Foundation does every single day. In close consultation with district administrations, we will identify and prioritize work in areas such as:

- **Building FLW capacity** – ongoing training of FLWs; community demand mobilization; training for home care
- **Strengthening health systems** – for COVID prevention, treatment, and vaccination; capacity-building support for health officials and supervisors
- **Closing infrastructure and supply gaps** – enabling the provision of critical supplies such as PPE kits and screening equipment; supporting Village Health and Nutrition Days (VHND, when vaccination is done); supporting primary health facilities
- **Restoring maternal and child health services** – Continue identifying and supporting high risk pregnancy and malnutrition cases and linking them with services



**Our goal is COVID support with a meaningful and lasting impact on overall health systems strengthening.**

**VISIT OUR DONATE PAGE TO SUPPORT OUR WORK**



*Antara International is a non-profit registered in the US, with an aim to mobilize funds for deploying large-scale public health innovations. Our focus is preventive health especially within the domain of maternal and child health, and nutrition. Currently, Antara International's funds are used to support on-ground activities of its partner organization, [The Antara Foundation](#).*

Visit our website for more information: [www.antarainternational.org](http://www.antarainternational.org)

<sup>2</sup> Coverage figures shared are approximate estimates