

## Success Story

### Mukti Pay-For-Performance Program

#### *Eliminating Tuberculosis in India with improved nutritional care and support*

India has the highest Tuberculosis (TB) burden in the world. Every year, 500,000 people in India succumb to (TB) despite it being a preventable and treatable disease. Undernutrition has been established as a critical risk factor for progression of TB infections in India, as nearly 55% cases of the 2.7 million annual TB incidences are attributable to it.

Mukti is the world's first Pay-for-Performance instrument to combat TB through improved nutritional care and support. It has been designed by USAID and Child Fund, in consultation with the Madhya Pradesh (MP) State Government, as MP accounts for nearly 7% of all reported TB cases in India and 28% of its population reflect poor nutrition indicators. ChildFund, as the risk investor and implementer supports patients through a four-fold strategy, including *treatment adherence & nutrition counselling support, community-based activities to promote peer to peer learning, food basket distribution and linkages to government-led nutrition support schemes*. USAID as the outcome funder through the PAHAL project, pays Rs.12,500 per patient to ChildFund, only if a TB patient completes treatment and demonstrates body weight gain as per clinically accepted standards ('treatment success' under the program). The treatment completion and weight gain are verified through the Nikshay portal in collaboration with the district and state TB offices.

**Sheru Ghumsingh, a 40-year-old resident of Kuraalkhal village, of Bakaner block, Dhar district, Madhya Pradesh,** is one of the many patient stories that validates the success of Mukti Program. Sheru does not have any family and works at a Tea shop to meet his basic needs. In June 2021 he started feeling sick and began to lose weight. Since Covid-19 infections were rapidly spreading he was very scared to go for any checkup. He took treatment at home but there was no improvement. Gradually he was unable to perform his daily chores and was completely bedridden. Seeing his miserable condition, his employer took him to the hospital, and he was diagnosed with Tuberculosis. On getting notified of Sheru's condition, Mukti program team reached out to him. Recounting his experience with Mukti program Sheru says *"I had no family member to take care of me and was scared that I was counting my last days. It was during such a time that Mukti program came to support me with the necessary care and treatment. I have no words to express my gratitude for the food baskets and regular counseling which gave me the strength to recover. Now I have completely recovered and have started*



*working again at the tea shop*". There's a drastic improvement in his health, with Sheru gaining weight every month and performing chores independently.

Mukti initiated its Phase-I (March 2020-June 2021) in Dhar district of MP, wherein it enrolled **1,000 patients**, delivered **6,249 food baskets**, undertook **10982 home visits**, and distributed **1,49,123 multi-vitamins** to TB patients. As a result, **949 patients** reported treatment success, **72% of adult patients reported a weight gain of 6 kgs** and **91% children gained weight as per WHO chart**. In addition, **237 patients** were also linked with government-led nutrition support schemes.



The success of Mukti's phase 1 led to the scaling-up of the program to **Jhabua district of MP**. It also prompted the Government of Madhya Pradesh to create a special platform called '**Appointment of TB Champions**' for appreciating patients who have successfully overcome TB and are ready to support the government in identifying TB patients such that the required support and treatment can be offered to them.