

## **VOLUNTARY HEALTH ASSOCIATION OF TRIPURA**

### **BI-The Union Tobacco Control Project**

Voluntary Health Association of Tripura has been implementing “BI- The Union Tobacco Control Project” since February 2020. This project aims to assist the state government to strengthen the mechanism within existing system for implementation of National tobacco Control programme and effective enforcement of National Tobacco Control Law i.e. Cigarettes and Other Tobacco Products (Prohibition of Advertisement and Regulation of Trade and Commerce, Production, Supply and Distribution) Act, 2003 (COTPA). The project will have focused intervention for Smoke free, TAPS ban and protecting the minors in 4 focused districts- Khowai, West Tripura, Gomati & South Tripura. The project will also support state tobacco control cell for protection of tobacco control intervention and advancement from tobacco industry interference (TII). The project will assist the state government to consider and adopting state specific guideline to manage existing and emerging challenges aligned with WHO-FCTC and other national good practices in tobacco control.

The following activities has been done so far

**Induction Training:** Induction training was organized by Voluntary Health Association of Tripura for the staffs of Bi-The union tobacco control project. The main objective of the training was to Sensitization and capacity building of the Project Managers, District Coordinators and other stakeholders for effective implementation of various component of NTCP and COTPA.

**Observation of World No Tobacco day 2020:** Voluntary Health Association of Tripura was observed World No Tobacco Day On 31st May, 2020 at four districts i.e. West Tripura, Khowai, Gomati and South Tripura. The theme of this year was “Protecting youth from industry manipulation and preventing them from tobacco and nicotine Use”. An awareness on wheel and Community advocacy meeting was conducted at various places of all four districts. The flag off was done by Ms. Pratima Bhowmik, honorable Member of Parliament, West Tripura

**. District Level Multi-stakeholders orientation workshop-Gomati District:** One day district level multi stakeholder’s orientation workshop was organised at conference hall of District Magistrate and Collector office, Gomati Tripura District. The one day district level multi-stakeholder orientation workshop on tobacco control is organized to sensitize different stakeholders like Policy makers, senior officials from various departments, other stake holders including civil society, public health institutions and Media.

**District Level Multi-stakeholders orientation workshop-West Tripura District:** Voluntary Health association of Tripura was organised One day district level multi stakeholder’s orientation workshop at conference hall of District Magistrate and Collector office, West Tripura District. The one day district level multi-stakeholder orientation workshop on tobacco control is organized to sensitize different stakeholders like Policy makers, senior officials from various departments, other stake holders including civil society, public health institutions and Media.

**Mapping and Listing of Stakeholders:** As per the work plan the mapping of various stakeholders has completed so far. The status of mapping and listing as Government officials - 508 nos, NGOs - 89

no's, Educational Institution - 338 no's, Public places - 286 no's and Tobacco Vendors/Traders 229 no's. The activity will continue in future also.

**6. In person meeting with Various Stakeholders:** In persons meeting was held with the various gov. officials and other stakeholders i.e. Health & Family welfare department, District Administration, Rural Development Department, Police Department, Social Welfare Department, Education Department, Labour Department, PRI Members, Civil Society organizations, Motor Unions Representatives Marker Committee Representatives etc.

**7. Advocacy Meetings with different stakeholders** Advocacy meeting was coconducted by Project Manager and District Coordinator with various stakeholders like District Magistrate & Collector, Chief Medical Officer, ADM & Collector, SDM, NTCP Officials Block Development Officer, District Education Officer, Panchayat Officer, District Labour officer, ICDS officials and public representatives like Zilla Sobhadhipathi, Municipal Councilor, Block Chairman, Panchayat Pradhan.

**Awareness through wheel Programme:** Awareness through wheel programme was conducted in entire four districts to aware the tobacco related issues, COTPA law and the dangerous diseases due to the consumption on tobacco products. The District Coordinator and Project Manager conducted miking activity through "Awareness on wheel" to aware the people not to smoke in public places and also not to spit in public after chewing the smokeless tobacco as it increases to spread the chances of COVID.

**Special awareness programme during Durga Puja Festival** An awareness programme through poster in different pandels to create awareness generation on various places during Durga Puja festival. The awareness contents were not to use tobacco products on public places, awareness generation among the people, showing various harmful effects of tobacco consumption in human body etc. The special activity is conducted as during the festival and for public gathering the increases of chance to spread COVID.

**District Level Multi-stakeholders orientation workshop-Khowai District:** On 19th December 2020 the District Level Multi-stakeholders orientation workshop-Khowai District was held at Khowai. The programme was inaugurated by Smt. Usha Bhattacharjee, Hon'ble Chairperson, Khowai Municipal Council and Chief Guest was Shri Amit Rakshit, Secretary, Tripura Sports Council, other dignitaries were- Dr. Nirmal Sarkar, Chief Medical Officer, Khowai, Shri S.N.Das, Senior Deputy Magistrate, Khowai District. The participant from various government departments, PRIs, local NGOs/Clubs, SHG leaders etc.