

**PARTICIPANT INFORMATION SHEET I – WOMEN**

To be read to participant prior to requesting consent for the survey

Ekjut and UCL Research Ethics Committee Approval ID Numbers:

Project Title: Community prevention of acute malnutrition in Jharkhand

Name and Contact Details of Investigators:

India - Investigator: Shibbanand Rath, Ekjut, Telephone: 09437229651

UK - Investigator: Naomi Saville, University College London, n.saville@ucl.ac.uk

Namaskar /Johar. My name is _____. I work for Ekjut, a non-governmental organisation that aims to improve the health and nutrition of mothers and children in this area in collaboration with the National Health Mission. You are being invited to take part in a research project. Before you decide whether to take part, it is important for you to understand why the project is being done and what participation will involve. Please take time to read/listen to the following information carefully and discuss it with others if you wish. Ask us if there is anything that is not clear or if you would like more information. Take time to decide whether or not you wish to take part. Thank you.

What is the project's purpose?

We are doing a project to understand if and how participatory group meetings and home visits by the Sahiya and Sahiya Saathis can help improve the health and nutrition of women and children in this area. This project will last from November 2021 till March 2025.

Why have I been chosen?

We are inviting all pregnant women and mothers or other caregivers of children under three years in selected villages to participate in the project. Your village was selected to participate in the project, and we obtained your name from the Anganwadi's and ASHA's lists of pregnant women and mothers in the village. We will invite around 20,000 women and children in different villages of Jharkhand to participate in the study.

Do I have to take part?

It is up to you to decide whether or not to take part. If you decide to take part, you will be given this information sheet to keep and be asked to sign a consent form. You can withdraw at any time without giving a reason and without it affecting any benefits or services that you are entitled to. If you decide to withdraw you will be asked what you wish to happen to the data you have provided up to that point.

What will happen to me if I take part?

If you decide to take part, we will visit you in your home for a private interview which will take between an hour and 1.5 hours. We will ask you questions about your and your child's health and nutrition. We will also ask to measure your child's height and weight. We will record what you tell us during the interview on a tablet. The data will then be transferred to Ekjut, and we will remove anything that could identify you and your child, including your name and address).

What are the possible disadvantages and risks of taking part?

You may find talking about your or child's health and diet upsetting. If this happens, you can stop the interview at any time without giving us a reason.

What are the possible benefits of taking part?

There are no immediate benefits for those people participating in the project, but it is hoped that this work will help shape future programmes with Sahiyas and Sahiya Sathis in the area. In addition, if your child is severely malnourished, we will help refer you to the Anganwadi for further care. **If we find that you are very distressed, we may offer you help through a counsellor at Ekjut or a referral to local health services.**

What if something goes wrong?

If something goes wrong during or after your interview, and you have a complaint about the project, contact the local Principal Investigator (Shibanand Rath, 09437229651). If you do not feel the complaint has been handled well, you can contact the Chair of the Ekjut Ethics Committee (**Dr Pallipamula – tel**) or the Chair of the UCL Research Ethics Committee (ethics@ucl.ac.uk).

Will my taking part in this project be kept confidential?

All the information that we collect about you during the research will be kept strictly confidential. Your name and the location of your house will be removed before the results of the project are made public or shared between people other than the researchers working on the project. The information you give us will be transferred to computers protected by passwords. You will not be able to be identified in any related reports or publications.

What will happen to the results of the project?

We will share the results of the project with the village authorities and your local women's groups. The results will be available in 2025. You and your child will not be identified in any report or publication.

Local Data Protection Privacy Notice

The controller for this project will be University College London (UCL). The UCL Data Protection Officer (**Alex Potts**) provides oversight of UCL activities involving the processing of personal data, and can be contacted at data-protection@ucl.ac.uk. This 'local' privacy notice sets out the information that applies to this particular project.

We will collect some personal data for this project. This will include your name, your child's name, your address, data about your mental health status and data on your child's weight and height. We collect this personal data for a project that is thought to be in the public interest. We will analyse these data for scientific and policy purposes.

We will only keep and analyse your personal data so long as it is required for the project. We will remove all names and addresses from the data as soon as possible at Ekjut's offices, and not send any data that might identify you outside the State. **All data will be securely stored at both Ekjut and UCL.**

If you are concerned about how your personal data are being collected or analysed, or if you would like to contact us about your rights, please contact **UCL's data protection office (Alex Potts) in the first instance at data-protection@ucl.ac.uk.**

Who is organising and funding the project?

Ekjut and University College London are organising the project. The Children's Investment Fund Foundation (UK) is funding the project.

Lead contact for the research team: Shibanand Rath, Ekjut, Telephone: 09437229651

You will be given a copy of the information sheet and, if appropriate and a signed consent form to keep.

Thank you for reading this information sheet and for considering to take part in this project.

**PARTICIPANT INFORMATION SHEET II – CLUSTER GUARDIANS**

To be read to participants prior to requesting consent for village participation in the survey

Ekjut and UCL Research Ethics Committee Approval ID Numbers:

Project Title: Community prevention of acute malnutrition in Jharkhand

Name and Contact Details of Investigators:

India - Investigator: Shibanand Rath, Ekjut, Telephone: 09437229651

UK - Investigator: Naomi Saville, University College London, n.saville@ucl.ac.uk

Introduction: Namaskar /Johar. My name is _____. I work for Ekjut, a non-governmental organisation that aims to improve the health of mothers and children in this area in collaboration with the National Health Mission.

The National Health Mission is seeking to improve a programme that supports Accredited Social Health Activists (ASHAs or Sahiyas) and their supervisors (Sahiya Sathis) in facilitating group meetings and offering home visits to pregnant women and mothers of young children in your village. During these group meetings, ASHAs and the group members will discuss the health and nutrition problems that women and their families face during pregnancy, delivery and after birth, and how to prevent them. To understand whether these groups and home visits are having an effect on the health and nutrition of mothers and children in your area, we would like to conduct short interviews with all women who are pregnant or have a child younger than three years. We are doing this in some areas that have started the programme and others that have not.

We would like to ask you for your permission to conduct interviews with women in your village, as a leader in your community.

Privacy and confidentiality: The individual information collected through the surveys will be kept confidential and used only for project purpose.

Withdrawal: You should only give consent for your village to participate in the project if you want to; choosing not to take part will not disadvantage your village in any way in respect to receipt of government services. It is up to you to decide whether to take part or not. If you decide to take part you are still free to withdraw at any time and without giving a reason, by informing the local project coordinator whose phone number is given below.

Data and dissemination: You can ask us for data collected for your village or district at any point during the project, by contacting the local project coordinator whose phone number is given below, and who can share anonymised results with you. We will invite you to an event where we will present the results of the project in 2025. If you are concerned about how your personal data are being collected or analysed, or if you would like to contact us about your rights, please contact **UCL's data protection office (Alex Potts) in the first instance at data-protection@ucl.ac.uk**.

Who is organising and funding the project?

Ekjut and University College London are organising the project. The Children's Investment Fund Foundation (UK) is funding the project.

Lead contact for the research team: Shibanand Rath, Ekjut, Telephone: 09437229651

**PARTICIPANT INFORMATION SHEET III**

To be read to participant prior to requesting consent for interviews or group discussions

Ekjut and UCL Research Ethics Committee Approval ID Numbers:

Project Title: Community prevention of acute malnutrition in Jharkhand

Name and Contact Details of Investigators:

India - Investigator: Shibnand Rath, Ekjut, Telephone: 09437229651

UK - Investigator: Naomi Saville, University College London, n.saville@ucl.ac.uk

Namaskar /Johar. My name is _____. I work for Ekjut, a non-governmental organisation that aims to improve the health and nutrition of mothers and children in this area in collaboration with the National Health Mission. You are being invited to take part in a research project. Before you decide whether to take part, it is important for you to understand why the project is being done and what participation will involve. Please take time to read/listen to the following information carefully and discuss it with others if you wish. Ask us if there is anything that is not clear or if you would like more information. Take time to decide whether or not you wish to take part. Thank you.

What is the project's purpose?

We are doing a project to understand if and how participatory group meetings and home visits by the Sahiya and Sahiya Saathis can help improve the health and nutrition of women and children in this area. This project will last from November 2021 till March 2025.

Why have I been chosen?

We are inviting National Health Mission staff, Sahiyas, Sahiya Sathis and women living in this area to participate in the project. Your village was selected to participate in the project. We will invite over 100 National Health Mission staff, Sahiyas, Sahiya Sathis and women of Jharkhand to participate in the study.

Do I have to take part?

It is up to you to decide whether or not to take part. If you decide to take part, you will be given this information sheet to keep and be asked to sign a consent form. You can withdraw at any time without giving a reason and without it affecting any benefits or services that you are entitled to. If you decide to withdraw you will be asked what you wish to happen to the data you have provided up to that point.

What will happen to me if I take part?

If you decide to take part, we will either visit you for an interview in a private place, or invite you for a group discussion with others. Interviews will last between 30 minutes and one hour. Group discussions will last between one and 1.5 hours. In both interviews and group discussions, we will ask you about your experience of organizing or participating in women's group meetings and home visits to improve women and children's nutrition, what made them useful or not, and how they could be improved. We will ask you for your permission to record what you say on a digital recorder that is password-protected. The data will then be transferred to Ekjut, and we will remove any information that can identify you (for example your name or village name). If you are a National Health Mission employee or worker, we will explicitly ask for your permission to use your designation and location. However, we will not record or use this if you do not want us too.

What are the possible disadvantages and risks of taking part?

You may find it upsetting to talk about health, diet, or other private matters. If you are a Sahiya or Sahiya Sathis, you may find talking about challenges you face at work difficult or upsetting. If this happens, you can stop the interview at any time without giving us a reason.

What are the possible benefits of taking part?

There are no immediate benefits for those people participating in the project, but it is hoped that this work will help shape future programmes with Sahiyas and Sahiya Sathis in the area.

What if something goes wrong?

If something goes wrong during or after your interview, and you have a complaint about the project, you can contact the local Principal Investigator (Shibanand Rath, 09437229651). If you do not feel the complaint has been handled well, you can contact the Chair of the Ekjut Ethics Committee (**Dr Pallipamulla – tel**) or the Chair of the UCL Research Ethics Committee (ethics@ucl.ac.uk).

Will my taking part in this project be kept confidential?

All the information that we collect about you during the research will be kept strictly confidential. Your name and any other identifier will be removed before the results of the project are made public or shared between people other than the researchers working on the project. The information you give us will be transferred to computers protected by passwords. You will not be able to be identified in any related reports or publications. **You will be able to withdraw your data from focus groups or interviews at any point until six months after the end of the project (31st September 2025).**

What will happen to the results of the project?

We will share the results of the project with you and local women's groups at the end of the study, in 2025. You will not be identified in any report or publication.

Local Data Protection Privacy Notice

The controller for this project will be University College London (UCL). The UCL Data Protection Officer provides oversight of UCL activities involving the processing of personal data, and can be contacted at data-protection@ucl.ac.uk. This 'local' privacy notice sets out the information that applies to this particular project. We will collect some personal data for this project. This will include your name, designation (for government staff, Sahiya and Sahiya Sathi), and location. We collect this personal data for a project that is thought to be in the public interest and will analyse them for scientific and policy purposes only.

We will only keep and analyse your personal data so long as it is required for the project. We will remove all names and identifiers from the data as soon as possible at Ekjut's offices, and not send any data that might identify you outside the state. **All data will be securely stored at both Ekjut and UCL.** If you are concerned about how your personal data are being collected or analysed, or if you would like to contact us about your rights, please contact **UCL's data protection office (Alex Potts) in the first instance at data-protection@ucl.ac.uk**.

Who is organising and funding the project?

Ekjut and University College London are organising the project. The Children's Investment Fund Foundation (UK) is funding the project.

Lead contact for the research team: Shibanand Rath, Ekjut, Telephone: 09437229651

You will be given a copy of the information sheet and, if appropriate and a signed consent form to keep.

Thank you for reading this information sheet and for considering to take part in this project.