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Subject: feedback

From: kbhatia@sdtatatrust.com

To: msraobds@yahoo.co.in

Dear Sambasiva Rao,  
Here is the feedback on Chenchus project.  
Findings and observations

Achievements of the project so far

1. Improved PHC functioning reported: Being a poor community, the Chenchus depend solely on the government health services. Random checks with the community, visit to a PHC and project reports reveal that all the six PHCs in Prakasham are functioning; doctors and other staff are largely present and are attending to them when they go to the PHC and medication is largely provided. A random check of one day OPD attendance in one PHC by the organization revealed 30 Chenchu patients. Mobile units are reportedly reaching the remote areas. Most gudems have a government Chenchu Community Health Worker who provides medicine for minor ailments and follow up of TB cases.

The project staff supports the PHC activities through their para medical staff of four.

2. Improved referral service reported: The non responsiveness of the government was the reason for the severe neglect which is now changing. The latest six monthly report has cited examples of a gastro-entesis outbreak in Marripalam and a malaria outbreak in Palutla that were treated and controlled satisfactorily by the PHCs and ITDA staff due to the lobbying efforts by the project staff. Cases of deaths due to diarrhea due to non availability of services were highlighted in the press and by the AP human rights commission.

On this visit, I was appraised with documentary proof, of individual cases also getting adequate hospital services. The lobbying for government vehicle, admission and treatment at the government hospital and nutrition for patient and caretaker was done by the project staff. A welcome development was that the local Chenchu leader had initiated and participated in the lobbying with the PHC and ITDA staff.

3. Improved immunization coverage reported: I did a random check with the women across the gudems and all except one new mother reported that they were receiving immunization services for expectant mother and children.

4. Anganwadi coverage almost complete in project area: There were 10 Anganwadis but now there are 49 major and mini Anganwadis. I did not see any anganwadi but confirmed from the Principal Secretary Women and