

Resumé



Raj Kamal Shama

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Professional Summary

Public health professional with 20+ years of experience and a Master of Public Health from the University of Leeds, UK. I have worked with national and international NGOs to strengthen public health systems at facility and community levels, focusing primarily on maternal and child nutrition, and sexual and reproductive health for young women and adolescents. For the past fifteen years I have led large program teams, built and sustained partnerships with government and donors, and delivered high-impact interventions across multiple Indian states including Odisha, Madhya Pradesh, Bihar, Uttar Pradesh, and Tamil Nadu. Recognized for implementing innovative, scalable interventions and for contributions to “Good and Replicable Practices” acknowledged by the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, Government of India.

Core Expertise

- Government engagement and policy advocacy.
- Program planning, implementation, and management.
- Maternal & child nutrition, sexual & reproductive health.
- Policy formalization through various pilot projects in Health & W&CD departments.
- Stakeholder, donor, and CSR/NHM resource mobilization.
- SBCC, community engagement, and frontline worker capacity building.
- Monitoring, evaluation, MIS, financial management, and compliance.
- Multi-state team leadership and public health system strengthening.

Education

Master of Public Health (International)

Nuffield Centre for International Health and Development, University of Leeds, UK
First Division, 2011

Master of Human Resource Management

LNMI of Economic Development & Social Change, Patna, Bihar, India
First Division, 2006

Digital Health Certificate

Online course authorised by Imperial College London and offered through Coursera, December 2021

Professional Experiences

Senior Program Manager (Program Lead)

Team Lease Foundation, supported by American India Foundation
Odisha | Sept 2022 – Present

Leading an integrated program and providing strategic support to improve nutrition, health, and maternal and early childhood development outcomes for children under six years of age, as well as for pregnant and lactating women. The program focuses on strengthening service delivery, systems, and sustainability through social and behaviour change communication (SBCC), operationalising VHSNDs at Anganwadi Centres, and building frontline worker capacity for maternal and child health and nutrition services. A key objective of this role is to support the Department of Women & Child Development and NHM in evidence-based policy decision-making.

Key responsibilities:

- Lead government engagement with NHM and the Department of Women & Child Development in Odisha.
- Drive program design, planning, implementation, and expansion.
- Prepare work plans, budgets, and partner onboarding processes.
- Strengthen monitoring, evaluation, and MIS systems.
- Review dashboards and present findings to government and donor stakeholders.
- Manage financial tracking, fund allocation, and utilization.
- Build partnerships with government, NGOs, communities, and CSR donors.
- Strengthen VHSNDs and frontline worker capacity for MCH and nutrition services.

General Manager – State Head

Piramal Foundation
Bihar | Oct 2021 – July 2022

Led a BMGF-funded program focused on digital health, leadership and organizational development, and public health governance.

Key responsibilities:

- Liaised with the Executive Director, State Health Society Bihar, and the Department of Health.
- Managed planning, strategic coordination, and annual work plans.
- Built stakeholder partnerships and represented the organization in state forums.
- Supported policy review and technical inputs on leadership and organizational development.
- Developed digital solutions for public health facilities and frontline workers.
- Managed teams, donor deliverables, budgets, and reporting.

Senior State Program Manager

American India Foundation
Madhya Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh, and Tamil Nadu | Jan 2021 – Sept 2021

Managed maternal and child nutrition, RKSK, COVID-19 vaccination support, and awareness campaigns across three states.

Key responsibilities:

- Secured approvals and MoUs with state and district health officials.
- Led a team of over 100 field staff.
- Managed donor-funded projects supported by HUL, Tata Trusts, and Oracle.
- Developed annual plans, RFPs, and partner onboarding processes.
- Supported IEC development and approvals for community sensitization activities.
- Managed budgeting, expenditure tracking, forecasting, and reporting.
- Ensured SOP compliance and timely submission of reports.

Senior State Director

Ipas Development Foundation (IDF)

Madhya Pradesh | Jan 2019 – Mar 2020

Provided leadership for sexual and reproductive health programs and state-level coordination.

Key responsibilities:

- Built relationships with state health officials and facilitated MoUs.
- Led strategic planning, budgeting, cost control, and performance tracking.
- Strengthened NGO partners and coordinated with WCD, Education, and other stakeholders.
- Supervised clinical and program teams across facility, school, and community platforms.
- Managed HR functions including recruitment, onboarding, and performance review.
- Supported research, assessments, donor reporting, and financial management.

State Program Manager

Ipas Development Foundation (IDF)

Madhya Pradesh | Sept 2014 – Dec 2018

Key responsibilities:

- Liaised with state health officials and coordinated field visits.
- Led program management, staffing, finance, and M&E.
- Managed recruitment, training, supervision, and annual appraisals.
- Implemented facility, school, and community interventions on SRH, FP, WASH, and nutrition.
- Oversaw budgets, vendor payments, research support, and reporting.

Senior Program Coordinator

Ipas Development Foundation (IDF)

Madhya Pradesh | Sept 2011 – Sept 2014

Key responsibilities:

- Supported implementation of the DFID-funded PMDUP project.
- Worked with state health systems across public and private facilities.
- Led recruitment, orientation, supervision, and performance management.
- Strengthened facility infrastructure and WASH services.
- Organized workshops with private practitioners and supported accreditation.
- Managed community awareness and donor reporting.

Program Coordinator

Ipas

Bihar | Feb 2008 – July 2010

Key responsibilities:

- Coordinated implementation across public and private facilities.
- Strengthened training centers for medical officers and nursing staff.
- Built support staff capacity for service quality.
- Leveraged public sector resources and supported donor reporting.

Project Associate

Pathfinder International

Bihar | Sept 2006 – Feb 2008

Key responsibilities:

- Supported implementation of the Reproductive Health Services project.
- Coordinated with 13 NGO partners.
- Built partner capacity and monitored progress.
- Supported IPC, IEC, mass media, and health promotion activities.
- Reviewed NGO reports and prepared monthly submissions.

Training and Professional Development

- Training on Integrated Management of Neonatal and Childhood Illness (IMNCI-HW), Kalawati Saran Children's Hospital, New Delhi, 2024.
- UNICEF online courses on Introduction to Nutrition and Nutrition in Emergencies, 2020.
- POSHAN Abhiyan e-courses on Anaemia, Basic Nutrition, Fortification, Infant and Young Child Feeding, Mother Health & Nutrition, and WASH, 2020.
- WHO online course on COVID-19 operational planning and preparedness, 2020.
- Technical Briefing Seminar, World Health Organization, Geneva, Switzerland, April 2011.
- Global Health Short Course, Imperial College London, June–July 2011.
- Computer training in MS Office, EndNote, SPSS, and Epi Info, University of Leeds, 2010–2011.
- Six Months Certificate Program in Health Care Waste Management, 2008.
- Virtual Six Months Stewardship on Leadership Training Program through BTS, 2019.

Research and Presentations

- Poster presentation selected at Delivering for Nutrition in South Asia (D4N2025).
- Published article for the Grand Challenges Annual Meeting, Berlin, Germany: "Improving care-seeking behaviour of young women for sexual and reproductive health in two states of India," 2018.
- Poster presentation at the World Health Summit, Berlin, Germany, on improving care-seeking behaviour of young women for sexual and reproductive health, 2018.
- Abstract selected for the 8th Asia Pacific Conference on Reproductive and Sexual Health and Rights (APCRSHR), presented in Nay Pyi Taw, Myanmar, February 2016.

Recognitions

- Five innovations were recognized under the “Best Practices” under the MoH&FW initiatives between FY15-19
- Ipas Development Foundation recognized as “Star of the Year” in 2019.
- Ipas Development Foundation recognized as “Employee of the Year” in 2014 for creative strategies.
- Ipas Development Foundation recognized as “Most Valuable Team Member” in 2012 and 2013.
- Ford Foundation awarded an “International Fellowship for Social Justice” in 2010.
- Pathfinder International recognized for “Exemplary Work & Dedication” in 2007.

Personal Details

- Date of Birth: 21 November 1974
- Marital Status: Single
- COVID-19 Vaccination Status: Precaution dose completed

References

- References can be provided if required.